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Scitex plunges \$178m. into red
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Murdered genius: Felix Nussbaum
The Magazine

Walter Blanding: Ambassador of jazz
Time Out

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Bank workers strike today
By GALIT LIPKIS BECK
The country's bank workers, with the exception of those at Maritime Bank and Carmel Bank, will strike today as part of their struggle to move to a five-day workweek.
For over two years, the banking sector's 40,000 workers have been pushing, with the Histadrut's support, to shift from a six- to a five-day workweek.
"All banks will be closed with the exception of border crossing branches," said Zion Shema, head of the Histadrut's bank workers division.
Bank spokesmen said automatic teller machines and bank telephone services will be operating.
If the banking sector strikes, Friday will not be considered a business day, the Bank of Israel said yesterday.
Earlier this week, the National Labor Court rejected

Clinton hopeful on Syrian track

By HILLEL KUTTLER and agencies

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton said yesterday that talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have left him encouraged about prospects for resuming Israeli-Syrian peace talks, although he offered no specifics.
"I'm hopeful we can get the Syrian track going again... I do feel encouraged by the discussions we've had, that there are things worth working on; but I have nothing specific to say at this time," Clinton told a White House press conference.
The talks between the two leaders, which lasted for some three hours, focused on both the state of Israeli-Palestinian relations as well as reviving Israeli-Syrian negotiations, now dormant for nearly a year.
Clinton said he would "very much" like to see the talks resume, calling them "a very important part" of the peace process, and said he is convinced both sides want to come back to the negotiating table. He added that he was "encouraged" by ideas he'd heard from Netanyahu, but would not elaborate.
Clinton affirmed that even if the rumored sale of 100 F-16 fighters to Saudi Arabia goes through, the US will assure Israel's continued qualitative edge. He also stated that the US would "do what we can to assure" that Russian assistance in developing a long-range missile from Iran would not erode



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meets with US President Bill Clinton in the Oval Office yesterday.

to Israel of F-15 fighters, as well as continued cooperative development of a theater missile-defense program and the Arrow missile, would "strengthen Israel's defense against attacks."
Netanyahu responded by lauding Clinton's "unshakeable commitment to Israel's security" and said he left their meeting with a "renewed confidence" in Israel's ability to pursue peace.
"The pursuit of peace and the practice of terror are incompatible. For negotiations to succeed, there must be a climate of stability and tranquility," Clinton said.
Asked about the case of Hamas political leader Moussa Abu Marzook, currently detained in New York pending extradition to Israel, Clinton said the matter was not discussed in the meeting and that he "cannot discuss it until it's resolved in our courts."
There were reports earlier that Israel was seeking to have Marzook be deported to Jordan so as not to test Hamas threats to carry out retaliatory acts of terror should he be extradited to Israel for trial.
Clinton said he believes Netanyahu "has thought through a way" to maintain the momentum of the Hebron accord, consistent with Israel's security needs.
"It's obvious he's been thinking very hard about this," Clinton said. "I was encouraged by that."
The president called Tuesday's

Continued on Page 14

Public against Friday bank closure, Page 18
ed the Banks Association's application to issue an injunction prohibiting the strike.
The workers' committees claim bank managers refusal to sign a five-day workweek agreement leaves them no option but to strike every Friday, starting this week.
In most cases, Shema said, the managers are refusing to even discuss the issue with workers, even though the Antitrust Court, which was asked to approve the transition to a five-day workweek, ruled that the employees' demand is legitimate, but must not be met by the banks as a group.
"We have never been so determined to strike as we

Outrage over 'Holocaust cookbook'

By TOM GROSS

A book of 82 recipes written by women in a Nazi concentration camp has become a surprise publishing success in the United States, pleasing some and outraging many.
The recipes - including ones for chicken galantine, breast of goose, apple omelette, and cherry-plum dumplings - were written in the so-called "model" Nazi camp of Terezin, where inmates were briefly allowed to pursue artistic activities including drama, opera, and drawing to dupe the International Red Cross.
In *Memory's Kitchen: A Legacy from the Women of Terezin* was named down by over 30 publishers before the small Brooklyn-based Judaica Press agreed to accept it. An initial print run of 3,000 sold out and there have been several further printings to keep up with demand. It has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, and several magazines have featured its recipes.
Translated by Bianca Steiner Brown, a survivor of Terezin who went on to become an editor at *Gourmet* magazine, the book's foreword was written by Michael Berenbaum, director of the US

Holocaust Museum in Washington.
While some call the publication of *In Memory's Kitchen* an inspired testimony to the survival of the spirit under nightmarish conditions, others dismiss the "Holocaust cookbook" as being in the worst possible taste. Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israel office, called the publication "sick."
"It's beyond me why anyone would publish a cookbook of imaginary recipes," said Zuroff. "Is this going to compete with imaginary cookbooks from Auschwitz or Treblinka? I'm sure the imaginary recipes there were much more descriptive as the conditions were far worse."

Dow tops 7,000

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 7,000 points for the first time yesterday, reflecting low interest rates and non-inflationary economic growth. Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow ended up 61.19 points, or 0.88 percent, at a record 7,022.82.

Croatian president appeals for ties with Israel

By STEVE RODAN

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, boycotted by Israel because of his controversial book, has appealed to the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to establish full diplomatic ties with his country.
"I look forward to the most comprehensive, deepest relations between Israel and Croatia," he said in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*. "We think that Israel can represent a positive model. The Israeli experience is very important for us."
Tudjman said Croatia wants to establish ties in many areas, particularly in defense. He said Zagreb seeks Israel's help in military modernization and industrial cooperation.
Last month, Tudjman published the English-language edition of his book, retitled *Horror of War*, which will be distributed in several weeks in the US. The original book, which had included quotes deemed antisemitic, had angered Jews and Israelis.
"The English edition is a revised edition," he said. "We omitted parts that were delicate and even irritating to a portion of those Jewish readers who didn't read all the book but who heard about the book or came across excerpts that

came from Serbian circles inimical to Croatia and Tudjman."
They interpreted these excerpts to mean that the book was antisemitic, he said.
Meanwhile, Israeli officials said that they are in no rush to establish

relations with Zagreb. They said they will need time to read Tudjman's book and determine whether it has resolved Jewish concerns.
A full interview with Tudjman appears in today's *Magazine*.

Continued on Page 14

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NEWS

in brief

Rafiah crossing closed after stabbing attack

Israel closed the Rafiah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt yesterday, after a visitor from Egypt stabbed and lightly wounded an Israeli security man.

The attacker, who was heading back to Egypt after his visit to Gaza, lunged at the Airports Authority employee for no apparent reason.

An IDF officer and a Palestinian policeman quickly subdued the attacker and he was arrested. The wounded man was treated at the scene and taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where he was reported in good condition. The authority announced it was closing the border crossing until the investigation into the attack was completed.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Report: Ya'acobi knew of Albright's heritage

Former Israeli ambassador to the UN Gad Ya'acobi knew of Madeleine Albright's Jewish roots in 1994 and reported the news privately to Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, *The Washington Post* reported yesterday. The newspaper revealed last week that Albright's parents were Jews who converted to Christianity in the late 1930s but did not tell their children. Ya'acobi said he learned the same facts through an Austrian-born British Jew, George Weidenfeld, who knew Albright's father, Josef Korbel, in London after the family fled the Nazis.

Weidenfeld, however, told *The Associated Press* that he had never discussed his heritage with Albright's father and had no proof that he was Jewish.

Hillel Kuntler

Islamic group calls for terror on US, Israel

A Moslem extremist group operating in Egypt threatened yesterday to use violence to win freedom for jailed Islamic leaders. The statement, from the Islamic Group, specifically mentioned Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, an Egyptian cleric jailed in the United States, and Mousa Abu Marzook, a Hamas leader facing extradition to Israel from America. "The American and Zionist terrorism will only be stopped with similar or stronger terrorism," the group said in a statement. It did not say what action it planned, but called on Moslems "to besiege American embassies in their countries and demand from their leaders to shut them down."

AP

Man killed, boy hurt on roads

A bicyclist was killed and a six-year-old boy seriously injured in road accidents yesterday. A car hit the bicyclist, who was riding on the side of a dark road in Gan Yavne, and he was declared dead at the scene. The Or Yehuda boy got off the van that brought him from school, ran across the street in front of the van and was hit by a passing car. He was brought to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer.

Ilim

Scuffles break out in Hebron

By HERB KEINON and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hebron Jews and Arabs exchanged volleys of oranges, apples, and eggs yesterday, during a confrontation that developed when Palestinians opened stores prematurely in a market opposite the Avraham Avinu complex.

On Wednesday, Palestinian and Israeli inspectors unlocked the shutters to the stores, closed since Baruch Goldstein murdered 29 Moslem worshipers in the Machpela Cave in 1994, to examine them in advance of their intended reopening, which has not yet been announced. They then relocated the stores.

Yesterday several shopowners, in full view of numerous foreign journalists and cameramen stationed in Hebron, attempted to open their shops. They were also observed by an IDF patrol, which told them they were not allowed to open the stores yet. A crowd gathered and the patrol called for reinforcements.

"This is my shop," said Faiz Jabari, standing in the doorway of a fruit store where he said he will soon be selling bananas. "This is a victory," someone else in the crowd yelled out.

Several Palestinians then started peeling off a sign posted on the inside of one of the metal shutters in Jabari's store, apparently by one of Hebron's Jews, which said that the market is built on land stolen from Jews after the 1929 massacre. This prompted Hebron Jewish community leader Noam Arnon, speaking in English in camera range, to declare, "You can tear off the posters, but you can't change the truth. This market was built on land stolen from Jews."

Shortly afterward the reinforcements—about 20 Nahal soldiers—arrived and pushed back the crowd of some 100 Palestinians. The soldiers showed restraint, despite being taunted by dozens of Palestinian schoolchildren.

By that time, a number of women and children from the Avraham Avinu neighborhood had gathered at the scene. As a few Palestinian men began, with some success, to disperse the children, someone from the women's side

threw a can containing what appeared to be firecrackers into the crowd. Their sound going off triggered an exchange of oranges, apples, and eggs.

A number of Hebron Municipality inspectors eventually helped the soldiers and a contingent of Israeli policemen to disperse the crowd, while being

berated by some of the Jews. "There are 50 kids here, and an entire army can't move them," Hebron resident Anat Cohen shouted at the soldiers. "This is a disgrace."

Earlier in the day, to protest the imminent opening of the market, some 100 Jews went into the wholesale market on the other side

of Avraham Avinu, which is off limits to Jews.

"If they are going to open the market here [near Avraham Avinu], then we should be able to go there," Arnon said. "If they are removing the restraints, then they must be removed for everyone."

Arnon said this was the first of a series of protest actions.



An IDF soldier yesterday tells a Hebron shopkeeper that he is not yet permitted to reopen his store. Scuffles broke out between Palestinians and Jews from the nearby Avraham Avinu neighborhood when a crowd gathered during the confrontation. (Reuters)

US pledges to help Israel retain qualitative edge

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

The US will seek to "reconcile" Saudi and Israeli needs in the event that the US goes through with plans to sell 100 F-16 fighter planes to Riyadh, US National Security adviser Samuel (Sandy) Berger recently told pro-Israel activists who expressed concern about the implications of a sale.

According to American sources, Berger told the group that he agreed with the idea that "the US would like to help Saudi modern-

ization while retaining Israel's qualitative edge."

However, the entire issue of an F-16 sale remains premature since the Saudis have reported internal differences on whether they should be spending money on the planes. Therefore, it remains unclear to what extent—if any—Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan will raise this issue during his current visit to the US.

Claiming money problems, the Saudis have expressed interest in a creative financing approach. According to American sources, one idea being floated would enable the US to lease the planes to Saudi Arabia while, in return,

the Saudis would lease oil to the US strategic petroleum reserve.

Apparently, due to doubts that the sale will even take place, before travelling to Washington Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not finalize what sort of US assistance he would request as an offset to any US weapon sales to Saudi Arabia.

Netanyahu has made clear that he would not oppose the sale. Sources say that should Israel seek offsetting assistance, it should be recalled that Israel retains interest in attaining access to US stealth technology currently being developed by the US for its highly sophisticated F-22 jets.

Reunion for released Palestinian women

By ESTHER HECHT

The reception at Ramallah City Hall was a strange cross between a class reunion and a pilgrimage. A dozen of the 30 Palestinian women prisoners released Tuesday night sat in a row at one end of a large room while a constant stream of well-wishers lined up to greet them.

Some of the former prisoners were in traditional Moslem garb and some were in snappy Western dress. Despite these differences, they had bonded closely during their incarceration, according to Esmat Abu-Saa, 30, of Tulkarm. "We are one hand, one body," said Abu-Saa, who was imprisoned twice, once for carrying a

knife and later for conspiring to kidnap a soldier.

Among the notables who attended the event organized by the Ramallah-based Women's Committee for Social Work were Ahmed Tibi, adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, Yasser Abed Rabbo, PA Minister of Culture, Arts and Information, and women's rights activist Zahira Kamal.

Many friends and relatives also attended.

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Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the eight of spades, the seven of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

In last night's weekly Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 245389 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 029343 was good for a new car.

Those holding tickets numbered 166472, 618735, 629674, 005713, 155134, 359995, 401069 and 662740 all won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 75718, 60150, 18325, 05662, 78857, 75388, 37884, 18883, 29938, 44348, 63592, 81935, 90549, 10772, 19913, 92745, 53422, 53791 and 11351 were good for NIS 1,000, while those holding tickets ending in 138, 525, 839 or 239 won NIS 100; in 37, 24, 69 or 33, NIS 30; in 82 or 96, NIS 20; and in 1 or 5, NIS 10.

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Crash report due today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The board of inquiry investigating last week's helicopter collision in the North that killed 73 soldiers is to present its interim findings to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai today.

Mordechai has ordered that the findings be discussed with the families of the fallen and by the government before they are released to the public.

However, sources close to inquiry, headed by former OC Air Force and Defense Ministry director-general David Ivry, said

human error was the likely cause of the crash. Nothing dramatic is expected in the interim findings.

Mordechai is to update President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the contents of the report. This morning, Mordechai is to discuss the interim findings and their ramifications with Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu.

Mordechai's media adviser Avi Benayahu stressed that the report is an interim one and should be

treated as such. The commission was given 45 days to submit its full report.

The five-man panel has spent the days since the collision questioning witnesses, going over radio transmissions and flying in a CH-53 helicopter to try to determine how the two helicopters collided above the northern border settlement of Sha'ar Yashuv. The CH-53 helicopter, also known as the Yasur, is not fitted with a "black box" to record flight information. Military sources have said that the heli-

copters were not flying in formation but were waiting together for permission to cross the border into Lebanon when the collision occurred.

Channel 2 reported that there was at least one witness to the collision. One helicopter apparently slammed into the other and plummeted to the ground. The pilot of the second helicopter radioed "I have a malfunction," ejected his fuel tanks and tried to stabilize the helicopter to make an emergency landing, but failed. The commission is expected to

David Ivry
(Hani Otsendryver/Israel Sun)

move on to consolidating new regulations and safety procedures to prevent future accidents.

NEWS

in brief

Golan Druse raise Syrian flag

Syrian flags were raised over schools in the Golan Heights Druse villages of Majdal Shams and Bukata yesterday, as residents prepared to mark today's anniversary of their general strike in 1982 against Israeli annexation and their being issued Israeli identity cards. The schools were closed as dozens of pupils took part in a parade in the main square in Majdal Shams.

David Rudge

Beit She'an Engines to keep running

The jobs of 35 workers at the troubled Beit She'an Engines factory were saved this week, after the Defense Ministry agreed to supply the firm with more orders. The owners of the 25-year-old company, which overhauls IDF vehicle engines, closed the factory last week and sent out dismissal notices, because there were not enough orders to keep going.

David Rudge

Peres apologizes for 'copter crash comments

Labor Chairman MK Shimon Peres apologized for talking of the need to "draw conclusions" about Israel's presence in Lebanon immediately after the helicopter collision last week, his media adviser, Aliza Goren said yesterday. Peres, who was in Switzerland at the time, commented soon after the accident, before he learned of the scope of the tragedy, Goren said.

Michal Yudelman

IAF continues Lebanon raids

By DAVID RUDGE

Markabeh and Talousa villages.

According to the reports, helicopter gunships also were in action around the villages of Ein A-Tineh, Maidoun and parts of the southern reaches of the Bekaa Valley.

The reports said that IDF gunners

shelled suspected Hizbullah targets in the Iqlim al-Toufah region and other areas north of the zone.

Lebanese observers said it appeared the activities were preemp-

tive and aimed primarily at thwarting Hizbullah attempts to plant bomb and infiltrate into the zone.

The incidents yesterday followed IAF raids on Hizbullah targets and bases of Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command in the Bekaa

Valley and south of Beirut on Tuesday.

Those air strikes – the deepest into Lebanese territory since Operation Grapes of Wrath last April – were seen as a message to Syria and Lebanon to restrain Hizbullah.

Israel Radio reported that the IDF is returning to full operational duties in south Lebanon following last week's helicopter disaster.

France, Israel herald new, cooperative era

By STEVE RODAN
and ELAD BECK

France and Israel have agreed to step up cooperation in the fight against terrorism and to hold semi-annual dialogues on strategic issues, official said last night. Details of the new relationship were announced at a joint Tel Aviv news conference by visiting French Defense Minister Charles Millon and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Millon, who concluded a two-day visit in which he toured military bases and defense industries, said reciprocal visits would be made by the two countries' chiefs of staff. He added that Mordechai is to visit Paris in June with OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu.

Regarding terrorism, Millon said, "We understand very well this threat to Israel. We promise the full cooperation of France in this sphere."

He pledged that the French intelligence services would cooperate fully in exchanging information on terrorist organizations.

Mordechai expressed satisfaction with the visit and expressed hope France would remain active in countering terrorism and acting against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

"I see you as the ambassador of the Israeli defense establishment in France," Mordechai told Millon.

Interviewed yesterday by Europe 1 radio, Millon said

France is willing to join other countries – mainly the US – in guaranteeing a future treaty among Israel, Syria, and Lebanon in order to prove it is possible to implement the principle of land for peace.

"For many years, France has maintained friendly relations with Israel and the Arab states, and it would like to offer its services to all parties for the success of the peace process," Millon said.

French diplomatic sources said France might send buffer forces to help guarantee a settlement, but stressed it is not realistic to believe an agreement can be reached separately with Lebanon. The officials said earlier this week, after a meeting between French President Jacques Chirac and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, that France is willing to consider sending such a force only after a comprehensive agreement.

Meanwhile, the French weekly, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, reported yesterday that France has proposed granting political asylum to Gen. Antoine Lahad, commander of the South Lebanese Army, as part of an international agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from the security zone. According to the magazine, the proposal was discussed at a secret meeting last December in Paris between French defense officials and Israeli emissaries, led by former Defense Ministry director-general David Ivry. Lahad's family already resides in France.

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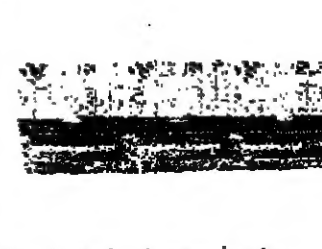
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Corruption and conversion

This week's dramatic expose of an alleged bribes-for-conversion scheme by the Channel 2 program, *Fact*, was met with denials of widespread corruption from the Chief Rabbinate. The police are to be commended for moving quickly and remanding Rabbi Michael Dushinsky, who was filmed taking \$15,000 from a couple posing as would-be converts, and Rabbi Binyamin Bar-Zohar, who allegedly received most of the money to arrange a quick conversion with rabbinical courts. The Rabbinate had better move as quickly to clean house for itself.

In November, a representative of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in Israel testified before a Knesset committee that dozens of conversion candidates had complained to the Reform Movement about being asked for bribes by Rabbinate officials. At that time, Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi responded that the complaint should be brought to the police. Since then, Bibi admitted, no action had been taken on the matter by the ministry.

The police say they have received many complaints of other cases of bribery since the program aired, and believe the phenomenon is widespread. It goes without saying that the police and the Rabbinate should not be satisfied with a narrow investigation in this case; they should work aggressively to root out corruption from wherever it has spread within rabbinical authority.

But the lessons of this scandal go beyond the matter of corruption to the wider problem of conversion in Israel. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 people here who want to convert to Judaism but cannot, because they do not meet the Rabbinate's criteria.

While there may be some who want to be Jews for opportunistic reasons, most prospective converts sincerely wish to join the Jewish people and become better integrated into Israeli society. Many wish to convert their adopted children. Beyond this tale of alleged corruption, which would be terrible enough in itself, is the human tragedy of the rejection of would-be Jews by the Jewish state.

The Reform and Conservative movements in Israel argue that this scandal is a classic case of absolute power corrupting absolutely. The crisis over conversions, however, is not just a function of the Orthodox monopoly in Israel, but of the steady movement to the right within Orthodoxy.

The main obstacle to conversion in Israel is the current Orthodox interpretation of the requirement to "accept the yoke of the mitzvot." While no one is suggesting this requirement be

waived, "acceptance" can be interpreted in either a broad or strict fashion. The first Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel, Ben-Zion Meir Uziel, did not regard a commitment to follow all the mitzvot to be a prerequisite for conversion. Today, however, would-be converts are being refused by the Rabbinate on the grounds that they live on a secular kibbutz, or are not willing to educate their children in the Orthodox school system, or for some other reason are suspected of not adhering to Orthodox practice.

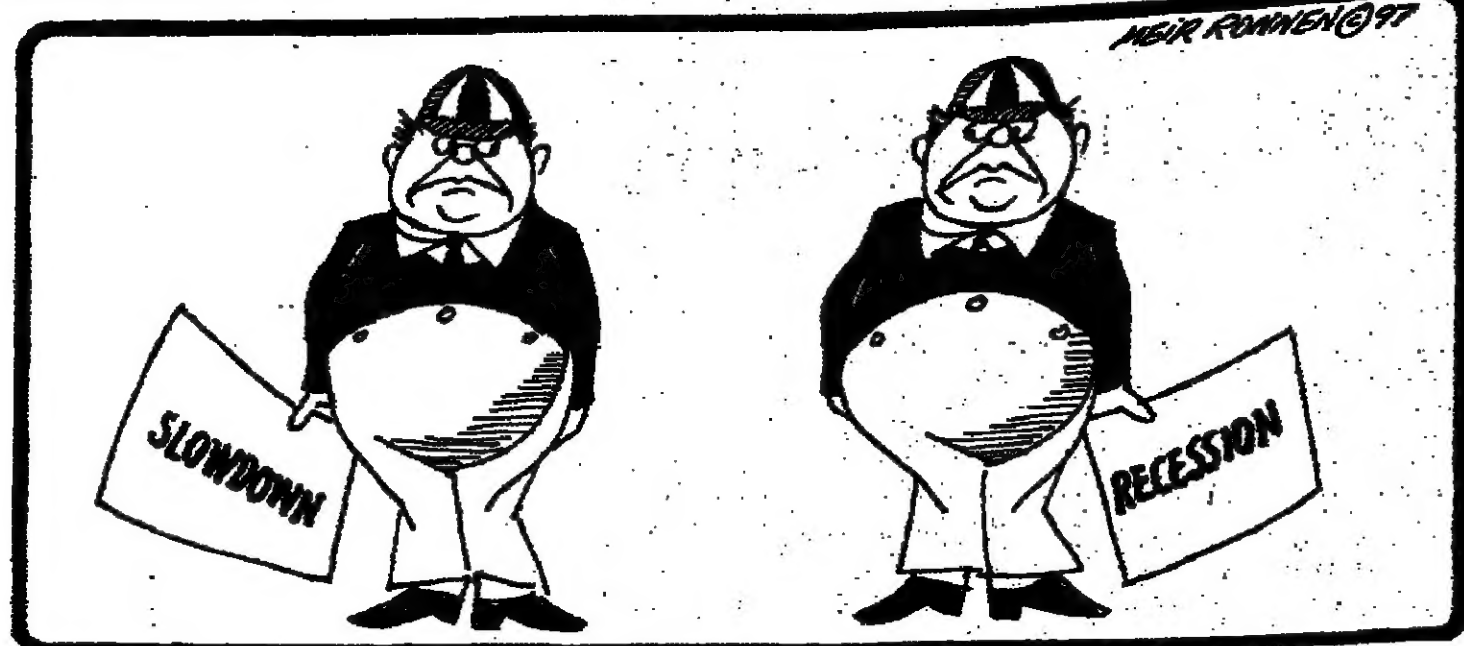
The Orthodox establishment believes that Reform and Conservative Judaism in general, and the lack of uniform conversion standards in particular, threaten to divide the Jewish people. The goal of a uniform standard is certainly a desirable one, if not an imperative. All strands of the Jewish world should be concerned about the potential of dividing into separate peoples that do not recognize one another as Jews.

The responsibility to avoid this division, however, falls on all three major branches of the Jewish people. In Israel, Reform and Conservative rabbis perform what they consider to be halachic conversions, while the Orthodox are moving in the other direction - becoming more stringent and less open to compromise.

If the real, wider conversion crisis is to be resolved, the Orthodox must bear a share of the responsibility to compromise. There is no intrinsic reason in Jewish law why it cannot be done. As the noted Orthodox author Rabbi Eliezer Berkovitz has written, "Within Halacha there are possibilities for an approach between the various ideological groupings of the Jewish people. ... [T]he responsibility of striving for unity in the spirit of 'love of Israel' is equally binding on all of us ... Halacha has to be stretched to its limits in order to further Jewish unity and mutual understanding."

The irony of the Orthodox trend toward stringency is that, in the name of preserving the Jewish character of Israel and avoiding a split within the Jewish people, its actual effect is exactly the opposite. Because it is so difficult to convert, many people who would become Jewish for the best of reasons are having the door shut in their faces by the Jewish state. Because the Orthodox establishment places such a high value on stringency, the greater value of Jewish unity is falling by the wayside.

Solving the problem of corruption in the Rabbinate is a great enough challenge, but it is only a prerequisite for confronting and reversing a long slide toward extremism. If there is a silver lining to this scandal, it is the hope that it might spark such a reexamination.



Unfreeze the Syrian track

ABBA EBAN

Itamar Rabinovich's book *The Road Not Taken* portrays me as a Lurking prime minister Ben-Gurion and foreign minister Moshe Sharett to negotiate with the Syrian dictator Husein Zaim back in 1949! Those who say history cannot be changed have never read an elder statesman's memoirs.

The relevance of this snippet from a distant past is simply that I have never believed peace in the Middle East to be durable unless Syria is part of the settlement.

It is true that Syria at that time "only" wanted half of Lake Kinneret, but I was confident that Ben-Gurion would know how to say no with maximal resonance.

The principle of never refusing negotiation should have prevailed then; it should prevail now over the obstacles that make success a dubious prospect.

History has come full circle, and the central role of Syria as the real bridge to the 21st century has penetrated our governmental bulwarks.

When Yitzhak Rabin decreed that the future of the Golan would be determined in a plebiscite, he was never allowed to phrase the question.

If the question were: "Would you like to renounce the Golan?" there would be a resounding negative. But if it were, "Is a peace

treaty with Syria vital to the Israeli national interest, or not?" a positive response would be assured. This illustrates the inherent futility of public opinion polls.

Until recently the Netanyahu administration was saying that the Golan is not even a subject on the agenda. It is all ours, and that's it. Period.

It is unlikely that this will be the

estimating all the elements in their relative proportions. It involves taking long views and working for distant ends.

If you ask what good such attitudes are for domestic political advantage, the answer is: no good at all.

ISRAELI rule over the whole of the Golan region and a peace

Since Netanyahu is bound to say 'land for peace' very soon - why not now?

prime minister's posture in Washington this critical week. In diplomacy you can't have everything.

Desirable ends are not always compatible with each other. Courage cannot always be reconciled with prudence, liberty with equality, sovereignty with concern for human rights, precise planning with the free flow of imagination.

That is why the diplomat is the bearer of a view of the outside world which his fellow citizens cannot always follow or accept.

The task of the peacemaker demands the intellectual gift of seeing all around a problem and

agreement with Syria are two things that most Israelis want. But if our government is worthy of its vocation, it must tell us plainly that we simply cannot have both.

There is no escape from the necessity of choice. Since Netanyahu is predestined to say "Okay - land for peace" in the very near future, why not now?

Demilitarization, buffer zones, monitored peacekeeping, mutual accessibility for negotiators, and security guaranteed by responsible international supervision are probably available now. They may not be available a year from now.

Netanyahu's qualities will be

judged according to his ability to maneuver within the range of feasibility. This is a very far cry from the original Likud positions, such as leaving the Golan in Israel's exclusive hands, and pretending that we can satisfy Damascus with water and security.

If we are in quest of a stabilizing agreement, the worst thing is to talk of unilateral withdrawals or to paint the promises of Hizbullah or Hamas in fictitious terms. The notion that these adversaries would approach our frontiers and recoil from further incursions goes beyond anything that they have said, let alone anything they have ever done.

The times demand realism. I doubt that France, having renounced Algeria, is looking around for non-European engagement in active peacekeeping roles, or that an international peace force in southern Lebanon would be any easier to establish than it was in the Balkans.

It is more likely that stability will depend on Syrian and Israeli decisions alone.

The first law of negotiation is "Don't take positions from which you cannot retreat without losing face - or from which you cannot advance without perilous risk."

The writer is a former foreign minister.

Moral of the story: Terror pays

ESTHER WACHSMAN

Our nation is embroiled in a fierce and passionate debate over whether or not to withdraw unilaterally from the security zone in Lebanon. The issue has, of course, taken on greater urgency as a result of the tragic helicopter crash on a day of the heaviest Arab terrorist bombardment of our northern border.

Seventy-three of our sons lost their lives on their way to a "mission" in Lebanon. Even citizens living on the Lebanese border said it was too dear a price to pay for their security.

Are we willing to sacrifice the lives of 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds for the sake of other lives? There is no clear-cut answer to this tormenting question.

Does the security zone protect the north of the country? Do Judea and Samaria protect Tel Aviv and Jerusalem? Did Sinai protect the Negev? These are not questions of sentiment and ideology, but of pragmatism and security.

We now have a Palestinian entity in the heart of Israel. Is it a good neighbor, or an enemy? We are in the midst of a peace process, begun by Yitzhak Rabin and continued by Binyamin Netanyahu. But Netanyahu was elected on a platform of "peace with security." The promise of "reciprocity" was a key element in his victory.

Meanwhile, what are the facts? To take a personal perspective, the man who masterminded the abduction and murder of my son Nachshon three years ago, Mohammed Deif, is still running free. Our government is not actively requesting his capture, arrest, or extradition.

When I met with President Clinton last February at the site of my son's grave on Mount Herzl, he assured me that, as guarantor of the Oslo accords, the US held

Deif's capture as a top American priority. He went even further, stating that the continuation of the peace process - specifically, the redeployment in Hebron - was contingent on Deif's arrest.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres was present and heard that promise made. There have been many more cold-blooded murders of Jews. The perpetrators have received

will not be released as a "concession to the peace process?"

LAST WEEK the body of Nachshon's murderer was returned to his family in Gaza.

In Moslem law, without a proper religious Moslem burial, this murderer could not attain the status of "holy martyr." Our government granted him this status. Our family was neither notified nor

When killers go free and murderers are rewarded, Jewish blood has become cheap in the Jewish homeland

sanctuary and a hero's welcome within the areas of the Palestinian Authority.

The most recent was the murder of a Jerusalem contractor, Ya'acov Yemin. His killer calmly hailed a cab to Bethlehem, where he was given sanctuary, and no one is demanding justice. Even when killers are caught, they are given quick trials and sentences to prevent their being handed over to Israel.

According to Amnesty and the US State Department's annual human rights report, they are released shortly afterwards and swallowed up in the Palestinian controlled towns. Many are then recruited to the Palestinian Police - another travesty of morality and justice.

My son's kidnappers - the two who weren't blown up in the IDF action - were tried by an Israeli military court. Neither was given the maximum penalty, which in Israel isn't the death sentence, but life imprisonment. Who is to say that in some future "deal" they too

briefed in advance of this short-sighted action. We got the news from the media, who called and asked for our reaction.

Ironically it occurred the very day the Knesset Interior Committee met to discuss Baruch Goldstein's grave becoming a shrine for some Jews. The monument erected on the site was declared an obscene shame to our country.

The hypocrisy of this double standard - denouncing the "canonization" of Goldstein while helping create a Palestinian martyr - offends all logic.

The family of a Palestinian murderer must know that they will never bury their son, that he will never achieve boldness and inspire other "heroes" for the cause.

During World War II, when the US was faced with Moslem jihad terror in the Philippines, they smeared terrorists' bodies with pig fat, nullifying their sanctity, and the terror subsided.

Our government's sensitivity to

the Palestinians was a slap in the face to our family. In rewarding terror and murder, it was a degradation of Jewish life.

For as long as I can remember, every government in Israel firmly asserted that terrorists "with blood on their hands" would never be released. Yet we freed Palestinian women murderers this week.

The message? Crime does pay, and terror pays even more.

Every "nationalist" potential killer now knows that, with enough pressure, he will eventually go free, even from Israeli prisons. Jewish blood has become cheap in the Jewish homeland.

Our sages tell us that each individual is an entire world; that his murderer kills not only him, but all his potential descendants.

My son Nachshon and the other victims of terror will never build families to carry on their names. Their parents mourn, while their killers rejoice.

I am not against peace; but it must be just and lasting, with a partner who yearns for peace.

I hear Arafat reverberate the "freedom fighters" who dedicate their lives to terror and bloodshed. He calls them heroes of Palestine, and I ask: Are these the words of a peace-loving leader?

While our education authorities have devised endless programs focusing on peaceful coexistence with our neighbors, our partners in peace have no such programs. On the contrary, Palestinian children are being indoctrinated by the new Palestine Authority with hate, revenge, and enmity.

Where is the reciprocity? Shall we blindly press on in a one-sided race toward peace?

The writer's son Nachshon was killed by Hamas terrorists in October 1994.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OBJECTIVE REPORTING

Sir, - I wish to add to Melvin Fenton's letter of January 31 that the BBC's Lyce Doucet's reporting is both incisive yet objective, and penetrating but balanced. Set against Sky's wild emotional outbursts by Peter Graves and some of CNN's reportage, her work is both honest and grounded in fact.

Michael Elton
Tel Aviv.

INTOLERANT POLICY

Sir, - The picture of January 31 of Conservative and Reform rabbis chained to benches in protest over the new Orthodox conversion policy surely raises some basic questions. Labeling, grading and categorizing are all very well for potatoes, eggs and tomatoes, not for human beings. Did Hitler differentiate between Orthodox, Reform and Conservative Jews? We all know the answer to that one.

The intolerant policy of our so-called spiritual Orthodox leaders is dividing Israeli society. Our enemy is not without, but within, and like an internal cancer, it is leading us to destruction. United we stand, divided we fall.

ANNA SOTTO
Tivon.

SMOKING IS DANGEROUS

Sir, - For shame, Larry Derfner! I usually enjoy your articles, but "Where's there's smoke there's fire" (January 27) made me furious. How can you even consider lending any credence to a pro-smoking point of view? A vast accumulation of evidence points to the fact (not hypothesis) that smoking is dangerous to the individual and ruinous to our already-jeopardized environment.

Any forward-looking newspaper ought to be in the forefront of a worldwide campaign for environmental safety. Instead of wasting valuable news space on a self-defeating, anti-health fringe group!

LESJIE COHEN
Ein Hashofet.

ASHAMED

Sir, - In response to Ann Hutchings' article of February 4, "Sick & tired," I am so ashamed of us. Has history taught us nothing?

SHIRLEY HIRSCH
Herzliya.

VICTOR AND VANQUISHED

Sir, - Man has always fought wars; he who lost had to pay compensation to the victor. In ancient times, this compensation took the form of gold, silver, farm animals, slaves - in certain cases, even some of the vanquished king's wives and children.

In the 20th century, Germany fought and lost two wars. After World War I, it was obliged to pay huge amounts of money to the victorious allies, it was stripped of all its colonies in Africa and had to give back to France Alsace and those parts of Lorraine that it had occupied after winning the war against France in 1870-71.

After World War II, one of the conditions laid down by the allies was that Germany hand over to Poland a strip of land on its eastern border - land on which ethnic Germans had lived for generations.

Syria lost two wars against Israel. According to international custom, Syria has no valid reason on which to base its demand that Israel hand back the Golan Heights, which are of enormous strategic importance for Israel's safety.

Since when is the victor required to pay compensation to the vanquished?

MARCELLA SEGRE
Jerusalem.

SWEET REASON

Sir, - Hats off to Susan Hattis Roleff! Her weekly article is essential reading for anyone seeking an intelligent, balanced view on the important issues of the day. Hers is the voice of sweet reason among so many commentators whose entrenched, dogmatic opinions do little, in my view, to raise the level of political debate.

If only her pragmatic attitude would be emulated by more of our politicians.

Kfar Masaryk. COLIN MILLER

VOTING ABROAD

Sir, - Over and over, we are told that Americans living abroad are allowed to vote.

Indeed, they are. They are also required to pay US income tax. Three cheers for the American way! Let's go all the way!

AVINOAM P. SHARON
Nili.

AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL TRADE

Sir, - Those pesky gremlins made an unwelcome contribution to your article of January 26 on Australia and Israel and in so doing understated the strength of the bilateral business relationship.

Two-way trade currently stands at around US\$320 million, of which Australian exports to Israel are \$80 million. (1995/6 was the first year ever in which Australian exports passed the Aus\$100 million mark.) At present, Australian coal exports to Israel are worth about US\$30 million.

It is a tribute to the energy and determination of the business in both countries that the value of two-way trade has doubled in the past decade.

PETER RODGERS,
Australian Ambassador to Israel
Tel Aviv.

TEACHING TOLERANCE

Sir, - I read with great interest your report of February 2 about the book published by Gan Harmony in Jerusalem. It teaches children not to make fun of anyone who is "different." It should be distributed free to every school in Israel.

I have read horrific stories of how some children treat new immigrants and poor children. (One child hanged himself because he couldn't afford school books and was afraid of how his classmates would treat him.)

I think both parents and teachers have been very remiss in not teaching children to be tolerant.

Netanya. NOMI KALISCH

SOME READERS pointed out the origin of Cigarette Sellers Street, mentioned in a recent Postscript, about a new Kupat Holim Leumi medical center opening in Bat Yam.

The street was named after a group of Jewish children in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943-44 who provided information to ghetto residents, smuggled in weapons and earned a meager livelihood by selling cigarettes. Some died in the Holocaust, but some of them survived and live here and abroad.

Their bravery and suffering was described in the book, *Mochrei Hagigariot MIKhar Shloshet Hagavim*, written by Yosef Damlan and published by Yad Vashem in 1962.

JSI

A WITCH-BURNING ceremony in Australia turned into a brawl when feminist protesters tried to drag an effigy of a witch from the top of a huge pyre.

Police were called to Castarina Beach after reports of a disturbance during St. Hans' Day celebrations by Scandinavians. Police told the protesters, who had hidden in the six-meter high bonfire to stop it being lit before the brawl broke out, to leave.

Protester Marie Matthews said she felt sickened by the sight of the effigy. "It was the typical representation of a witch - long hair, big wart on the nose, the hat - all the negative side of women."

"I knew there was no way I could allow this to go down - to me it was a representation of the

burning of womankind." Bonfire organizer Kai Hansen said the ceremony, believed to date back 1,200 years to Viking times, had never provoked trouble before.

"Then all of a sudden this year, this bunch turns up," he said. "They were screaming out things like 'That's me, that's my sister you're burning' and from the way they looked it was pretty hard not to yell back that they were right."

Hansen complained that the protesters "were throwing sand in our eyes, they were throwing burning wood at people. Luckily, it was very early in the evening. If it had been later and we'd had a couple more beers, it might have got out of hand," he said.

STOP RIGHT there or the rooster gets it!

A 70-year-old Long Island man took his flock of hens and roosters hostage, threatening to kill one each minute unless police and sanitation workers, sent to clean up his junk-filled yard, left the property.

Roderick Baker killed three chickens before being arrested.

Neighbors complained that the 50 animals he kept at his Unkondale, New York, home, were ruining the neighborhood.

"He just went whack," said Larry Wallach of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"Nobody liked the chickens running around, but he was always very polite. You wouldn't expect this," said the next-door neighbor.

Sad, this unilateral blunder...

Very likely, we missed an opportunity this week to reopen negotiations with Syria. The small window that might have led to quiet talks between Jerusalem and Damascus on a Lebanon cease-fire slammed shut in Kachav Yair, where a group of politicians and former security people gathered to discuss ways and means of withdrawing from Lebanon.

We have no concrete proof that Syria is ready to reach any agreement with us on pacifying Lebanon. But international pressure for such an agreement has been growing, and Syria has called on Israel to renew talks.

Again, this doesn't necessarily mean Hafez Assad is genuinely willing to work for a cease-fire, but increasingly he cannot afford to ignore all the advice he has been getting from the US, France — and even from Lebanon itself — to the effect that he had better begin to deal with Israel, since there is no chance of the IDF withdrawing unilaterally from the security zone.

This is the kind of diplomatic exchange that passes between the two countries. Every envoy to Jerusalem from Damascus brings the clear message that Syria wants to renew talks with Israel, while every envoy in the other direction tells the Syrians that the first stages of talks must include arranging a cease-fire in Lebanon.

This is all very well as far as it goes, but clearly the contacts haven't yet attained the required level of sophistication, the important awareness by all concerned that a start in Lebanon would serve as a confidence-building measure, laying the groundwork for eventual territorial arrangements.

MOSHE ZAK

Nevertheless, we should not underestimate the "international manifesto" they have helped create, for it could push home the point to Assad that a Lebanon cease-fire has to be the first step in any deal.

There was a small chance that Syria would reassess its position and weigh the dangers involved in escalating the fighting in Lebanon against the enthusiastic support it would get from the US and France should it open negotiations with us.

Noises here about an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon may have persuaded Damascus that it isn't time to deal

on more neutral, less ideological, issues.

But noises here about a growing demand in the Israeli establishment for a unilateral IDF withdrawal from Lebanon have effectively swallowed up the quiet beginnings of real Israeli-Syrian communication.

The Kachav Yair group explained that they hadn't meant that the IDF should withdraw unilaterally, only in the context of an agreement. This didn't help. Beirut, Damascus, and Tehran interpreted the group's deliberations as an unconditional surrender to terrorism, as a flight from Lebanon under Hizbullah pressure.

Yet Israel had to show the Syrians that they were playing with fire. Lack of an Israeli-Syrian agreement in Lebanon could well mean an escalation of terror there. This week, in response to such terror, IAF planes reached as far as

Baalbek, the center of Syrian control.

SYRIA has been playing with the idea of a Lebanon agreement for a long time.

In 1976 Assad and Yitzhak Rabin, through the agency of King Hussein, agreed that Syrian army units would deploy up to the Nabatiya line. Following Operation Grapes of Wrath last year, secretary of state Warren Christopher helped broker an

agreement to set up a joint US-French-Syrian-Israeli-Lebanese commission to monitor the understanding on opening fire.

That was when serious Israeli-Syrian talks should have begun, with a cease-fire in Lebanon heading the agenda.

It is true that some on our side — people who were once at the center of events but are no longer in possession of all the facts — have grown impatient and begun to spread all sorts of proposals for a speedy solution in Lebanon. But they might as well have just landed from Mars, for all the use their plans are.

As an IDF substitute, they suggest setting up a multinational emergency force, but they have forgotten the problems we inherited from a similar mechanism in the past.

(And we don't even know whether the US would be willing to send troops; they learned a hard

lesson 13 years ago, when terrorists killed many scores of their Marines.)

They have also forgotten the report from new UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on last year's IDF fire at the UN camp at Kana, where the Hizbullah terrorists had taken refuge.

They have learned nothing from the past; indeed, they hardly know what is going on in the present — which is why they are busy circulating empty slogans about an international security regime that will fill the vacuum left by the IDF withdrawal from the security zone.

The Syrians should take note of Egypt's mistake at the end of the 1960s.

Israel suggested a foreign ministers' meeting in Nicosia. At first the Egyptians agreed, and even named a representative, but then they changed their minds without explanation.

Some said it was because of reports of upsurge in Israel over a government believed not to be doing enough for peace — and the Egyptians thought they would wait for the social disintegration that must inevitably follow before they came to any negotiations.

But that disintegration did not occur, and a chance for peace was lost.

The Syrians needn't repeat this mistake.

If they view Kachav Yair in the correct perspective, they will see that there has been no revolution in our strategy.

Simply: Israel will not sit down to any negotiation on the Golan with Syria holding a pistol made in Lebanon to its head.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.



Questionable use of the lie detector

As Judge Elyakim Rubinstein begins his service as attorney-general, the issue raised by his refusal to take a lie detector test remains unresolved.

No one has seriously suggested that this refusal affects Rubinstein's suitability for the office. Nor has anyone suggested that the fact that Roni Bar-On (presumably) passed a polygraph test, even during a day in office, demonstrated that he was a suitable appointee.

Who gave lie detector tests a bad name?

Was it Elyakim Rubinstein, who refused to submit to one because of his principled objection that it was an unwarranted intrusion into his personal privacy and a violation of his basic rights? Or was it Roni Bar-On, who was tested and found trustworthy? The verdict is still not in.

It would be interesting to know the subjects Bar-On was questioned on during his test. No specific issue was being investigated at the time.

It is a safe assumption that the questions he has been asked in recent days — regarding his relationship with Ariel Deri, David Appel, and Avigdor Lieberman — were not posed in the course of his lie detector test.

Conventionally, the polygraph, or lie detector, is not considered an instrument for judging character. When there is no specific subject for investigation, it has limited utility.

Even if Bar-On emerges unscathed from the present investigation, he has already demonstrated that the polygraph has its limitations in qualifying a candidate for appointment to high office.

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

Lie detector tests are no substitute for trust. Judge Rubinstein enjoys virtually universal trust, with or without a polygraph test. Hence the decision of the government approving his appointment, despite his principled objection to submitting to the electronic inquisitor.

There was no need for the government to get involved in the basic question of the propriety of using the polygraph to test senior civil servants. It should have satisfied itself with the solution of the specific problem before it. For

legal adviser.

Rubinstein moved from the Foreign Ministry to the post of cabinet secretary, in which office he remained under Yitzhak Rabin, serving as head of the Israel delegation in the peace negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian team in Washington.

Before his elevation to the district court, his official title was "legal adviser to the defense system and aide to the prime minister."

Isn't that enough of a basis for trust? The cabinet should simply

Surely a senior civil servant can be spared the electronic inquisitor?

this, it did not require expert opinions on the utility of lie detector tests. All that was needed was a modicum of ordinary common sense.

Even Internal Security Minister Kahalani, the minister most directly involved in the issue, expressed surprise that a person with Rubinstein's record was required by the prevailing procedures to undergo a lie detector test.

After all, Rubinstein has, for the last quarter-century, been involved in matters of the highest sensitivity.

HE FIRST came to the attention of defense minister Moshe Dayan as a result of his work in preparing Dayan's case before the Agranat Commission that investigated the Yom Kippur War. Thereafter, Dayan, then Menachem Begin's foreign minister, took Rubinstein with him to Camp David as his

have declared that there was overwhelming evidence of Rubinstein's credibility, on the basis of his record, and that no further evidence was required.

This would not have been a particularized decision, challenging the rule of law. Any other candidate for high office with comparable credentials would be dealt with the same way.

Having taken upon itself, however, to resolve the dispute over the propriety of subjecting senior civil servants to lie detector tests when there is no specific subject under investigation, the government chose a method that is seriously flawed. It created what is, in effect, a cabinet committee, with the addition of the new attorney-general.

This decision places Rubinstein in an impossible position. Since he is personally involved, propriety

would indicate that he is obliged to disqualify himself from serving on such a body. Moreover, as the government's legal adviser, he will be obliged to rule on issues on which he has already taken a stand.

Even if this arrangement can survive a High Court test, it does a disservice both to Rubinstein and to the government.

It would be best for all concerned if the matter did not reach judicial resolution. With Rubinstein's entry into the office of attorney-general, this is the proper time to fashion an alternative solution.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi has appointed a distinguished committee, under the chairmanship of former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar, to examine the method for appointing the attorney-general. It includes jurists with relevant public experience and Prof. Ruth Gavison, Israel's leading academic expert on the law of privacy and basic human rights.

Certainly any method designed to determine the character or credibility of the nominee falls within the terms of reference of that committee. Hanegbi should request the opinion of the Shamgar Committee with regard to the indispensability of a lie detector test, taking into account all the relevant factors, including the personal history of the nominee.

Rubinstein should be entitled to embark on his service as attorney-general without the albatross of the government's ill-considered lie detector committee around his neck.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

Out from under the rubble

Almost Korbel, Olga Korbel and Anna Spieglova were murdered almost a half-century ago. Now, at last, they are receiving what the living owe the dead of the Holocaust — to remember their names, and never to forget they were put to death in the gas chambers because they were Jews, for that reason only.

There is no lesson to be learned from the Holocaust except this: Evil beyond evil was done and can be done again, unless the living remember.

Now the true lives and manner of death of three grandparents are part of Madeleine Albright. As secretary of state, she is known around the world. Therefore so, now, are the lives and extermination of Arnost Korbel, Olga Korbel and Anna Spieglova.

There is so much to think about. If Albright's parents had given their child her right when she was little — to know the truth about her grandparents and, therefore, about herself — the world would have paid little attention to what had happened to Arnost Korbel, Olga Korbel and Anna Spieglova.

Three Jewish grandparents of an American official murdered in the Holocaust — it would have made a few paragraphs in the biographical handbook, some short feature stories.

But Albright was brought up a Christian, and the world is very interested to discover that she was never told by her parents that her paternal grandparents and her mother's mother were Jews murdered for that offense.

Still, would the world have cared if she were not so prominent? Stories of children brought up not knowing they were Jews have come up often, without getting much attention.

The granddaughter's energy made her secretary of state. Albright can take comfort from the fact it was her own achievement that inspired Michael Dobbs to look into her life. He turned out a fine piece of journalism for the Washington Post magazine.

A.M. ROSENTHAL

revealing the truth about Albright's grandparents' religion and deaths.

How sad it will be if Arnost Korbel, Olga Korbel, and Anna Spieglova remain on the margin of our minds.

Victims are always the paramount reality of murder, more than even the most prominent of survivors, but sometimes we forget that.

WHEN I was young and reporting from Poland, a Polish writer offered to show me Warsaw one night shortly after my arrival.

We had something to eat and drink. Everything seemed gay at 2 a.m., and we were off.

Their names, their numbers, and the sole reason for their murder. The living owe it to the dead to remember

Fourteen years after World War II, the city was still strewn with the wreckage of the Germans' block-by-block destruction. The writer took me to a place of special emptiness. He said it was the ghetto.

But where? There — he pointed to a few apartment houses on the edge of the emptiness, newly built on high mounds.

Why were they built that strange way? I asked. He replied that it was cheaper to put them up over the rubble of the ghetto and the remains of Jews.

The realization of what was beneath the buildings made us

cold and ill, and we wept.

He was not a Jew, he told me, making not a big point, but a point. Months later he came to my house to say he was — but not to tell anybody.

Once I drove outside Warsaw to meet a Christian tavern keeper decorated for saving ghetto Jews. "I am not a Jew, you know," he said, but was proud to get packages from ghetto survivors in Israel or America.

A few drinks, and he leaned forward to whisper. That was a lie, he said. Nobody knew, not the Germans or Poles, not his Russian wife nor his son, but he was a Jew, a Jew — "on the Torah, it is true."

Ever since Poland — the night in the ghetto, the sight of Auschwitz, the hours listening to survivors who had clung to their Jewishness, as they did to their very souls — I have believed that memory of the Holocaust, intimate unfading memory, is our duty certainly, our protection possibly.

Three years after I left Poland, then a nasty Communist dictatorship, I put two two incidents on paper.

Rereading them now, I realize that I wrote as though the stories were only about that writer and tavern keeper. I did not ask the names of their own Holocaust dead, or even how many there were.

I am sorry for that. Holocaust victims will keep returning as long as we remember them. Thank God.

Madeleine Albright can serve as a light toward Arnost Korbel, Olga Korbel and Anna Spieglova, and perhaps toward others, who are remembered, or have yet to return.

(Courtesy of the New York Times)

Let's salute this generation — here, now

We've heard an awful lot of talk about the decline of Zionism and its replacement with what has been called post-Zionism, characterized by individualism and an obsession with materialism.

But when one loses a lot, as the nation did last week, one tends to get a better perspective on what one actually has.

When so much has been spilled, as it was last week, one needs to look at the cup that is half-full.

And then what one sees is a generation of young people who serve in the army dutifully, for the most part quietly, young men who serve in combat units, on the border, in southern Lebanon.

Last week's dead were a sampling of these young men. They were a true slice of Israeli youth. It seemed there were as many as there are cities and towns in Israel.

It may be true, as the critics of our times argue, that today's young people know less about their reli-

JACOB L. DALLAL

gion and their history than their parents, and certainly their grandparents, did. It may be true that their education is less complete, their culture more adulterated.

But those who lament the decline of Zionism should keep before them the image of those outposts in southern Lebanon; of those who, during cold winter nights and over treacherous summer days, are out there manning them.

These young soldiers are defending their country stoically, unassuming, doing their duty without articulation.

Perhaps, instead of complaining about our youth, the critics could say that these young people and those who will follow them deserve a better education, a richer contemporary culture, a sounder base for their philosophy of life.

The past is there to build upon, the future a matter for speculation.

Today, we ought to salute this generation of Israeli youth — here, now, as they are, coming from all over the country, from every background.

Like those who fell last week.

We should salute them for their courage, for their raw sense of right, for their service to their country, for their Zionism, as it is.

The writer is a freelancer.

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NEWS

in brief

Milosevic warns pro-democracy opponents

BELGRADE (AP) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday warned of swift action against pro-democracy protesters, but opposition to his autocratic rule appeared to be spreading to state television and other once-loyal media mouthpieces. "Energetic action of the state institutions and the whole society is needed to counter crime, corruption and all other illegal actions," Milosevic said at a meeting of new members of his reshuffled government. His warning was a clear allusion to the opposition, which he and his neo-Communist wife, Mirjana Markovic, have branded as traitors, criminals, and foreign spies. Milosevic's warnings came amid reports from inside Serbian Television that some 110 employees of his chief media mouthpiece have signed a petition demanding the ouster of their director and freedom of the media.

O.J. rejects Goldman offer to confess

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — O.J. Simpson rejected a challenge from Fred Goldman that would have allowed the former American football great to avoid millions in damages if he signed a confession admitting he is a killer. "No matter how much money I am offered, I would never confess to a crime which I did not commit," Simpson said Wednesday, through attorney Phillip Baker. Goldman earlier told The AP in a telephone interview: "I don't want to play games. But if he wanted to sign a confession with all the details of his crime and broadcast it all over the country and publish it all over the nation, I would drop the judgment." The aggrieved father, who never accepted Simpson's murder acquittal and doggedly pursued him to civil court, added: "All I ever wanted is justice. It's never been an issue about money."

Pravda: Russian drinkers likely to back Yeltsin

MOSCOW (Reuters) — The more a Russian drinks, the more likely he or she is to support President Boris Yeltsin, according to an opinion poll published yesterday in the communist opposition newspaper *Pravda*. The newspaper said its poll questioned 2,404 people and showed that those who drink alcohol every day are 50 percent more likely to back Yeltsin than those who do not. Abstainers or those who drink rarely are more likely to be proud of the Soviet years, themselves not marked by any fervor for totalitarianism, and less likely to seek further economic reforms, the paper said. Yeltsin himself has long been viewed as a man who enjoys his vodka, but Kremlin aides say he does not have a drinking problem.

Suspected IRA sniper kills British soldier

By TOM COULTER

BELFAST (Reuters) — Britain and Ireland closed ranks against the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, yesterday after a suspected IRA sniper killed a soldier and rekindled fears of fresh sectarian war in Northern Ireland.

British Prime Minister John Major vowed he would not give in to the "murderous efforts" of the Irish Republican Army to force his government to invite Sinn Fein to peace talks from which the party is excluded because of IRA violence.

His Irish partners in the search for a lasting settlement to the 28-year Northern Ireland conflict also condemned the IRA for continuing to wage war to force an end to British rule.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton told parliament the shooting on Wednesday night of a 23-year-old British sol-

dier was "an expression of something we wish to eradicate from our society — the use of violence to achieve political ends."

But Sinn Fein Chairman Mitchell McLaughlin told Irish radio that Major's refusal to admit the party to peace talks until the IRA ends its war was the reason the soldier died.

"John Major has responsibility for collapse of the peace process," he said. "I think if it [the killing] focuses people's attention on the tragic consequences of political failure then that soldier's young life will not have been in vain."

But British and Irish officials accused him of hypocrisy in expressing regret for an action they blamed on his IRA supporters.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, said it highlighted a "cynical contrast between words of peace and the crimes of murder."

Later, Northern Irish police said they had defused an

anti-personnel bomb left in the middle of a housing estate. The device contained a quantity of Semtex explosive as well as nuts and bolts. Rifles and pistols were found on the estate in the Armagh area where the British soldier was shot dead.

Major, staring defeat in the face at elections he must hold by May, vowed there would be no change to Britain's policy of refusing contact with Sinn Fein or inviting it to talks until the IRA called a permanent halt to its war.

"Let me make two promises — there will be no hiding place for the culprits — none at all — and I will not be deflected from the real search for a lasting settlement and peace to Northern Ireland." Pro-British politicians believe the IRA campaign, which began when it ended a 17-month ceasefire one year ago, is aimed at provoking revenge attacks by their pro-British Loyalist foes to make Northern Ireland ungovernable.

Tajik warlord shoots hostage

By UMED BABAKHANYOV

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) — A rebel warlord had his gunman kill a United Nations military observer, one of 14 people being held hostage in the former Soviet republic, Russian news agencies said yesterday.

Both ITAR-Tass and Interfax cited their correspondents at the scene, who are also hostages. Neither identified the observer by name and the UN could not confirm the report.

Warlord Bakhran Sadirov had been holding 14 hostages: three

UN military observers, four UN refugee workers and their translator, four Russian journalists and their driver, and Tajikistan's security minister.

The Tajik government gave in yesterday to his demands to bring 40 guerrilla fighters home from neighboring Afghanistan. Sadirov had promised to free the hostages after the guerrillas were back, but suddenly he balked.

ITAR-Tass said its hostage correspondent, Galina Gridneva, reported the killing in a telephone call to the agency. Interfax cited its captive correspondent, Sunay Sobirova.



Policeman shot dead in Albania

Demonstrators burn copies of the Albanian newspaper 'Albania,' which they say is controlled by the government, during a demonstration in Vlore yesterday. It was the ninth day of anti-government protests, hours after a policeman was shot dead. (Reuters)

Suit filed against distribution of Swiss Holocaust fund

By MARILYN HENRY and TOM TUGEND

Lawyers backed by the Simon Wiesenthal Center have asked a US federal court to block the distribution of money from the Swiss "humanitarian fund," saying that such distribution would mean many survivors could never claim their assets.

The fund, which is now being established with an original contribution of \$70 million from three major Swiss banks, could threaten the ability of survivors and heirs to recover their assets from the banks, according to Michael Hausfeld, the lawyer who filed one of the three class-action suits against the Swiss banks on behalf of survivors.

Hausfeld told the court that the banks are transferring \$70 million that belongs to survivors and, in effect, are moving the survivors' assets from their reach.

Switzerland's government and banks have been negotiating with the World Jewish Restitution Organization, which is not affiliated with the lawsuits. The legal

action, however, may ultimately supersede these negotiations, as a court order would be more authoritative and impose greater accountability than an agreement with a voluntary organization.

The Swiss fund also faces challenges within the Jewish community, as there is increasingly public competition between and among Israeli officials, Jewish organizations and survivors' groups about who speaks for the survivors and how any money should be used.

Meanwhile, the Wiesenthal Center has petitioned the Swiss government to open an investigation of possible bank accounts opened by top Nazi officials in Swiss banks during World War II. Accompanying the request to Swiss President Arnold Koller, the Wiesenthal Center submitted 334 names of men and women who possessed the power and wealth to transfer substantial assets out of Nazi Germany.

The list, which reads like a Who's Who of Hitler's Germany, includes top government and SS officials, bankers, industrialists

and art dealers.

Since accounts may have been opened under pseudonyms, or the maiden names of wives and mistresses, such names are also included. Listed in alphabetical order, the names range from Hermann Josef Abs, a banker who financed the industrial complex at Auschwitz, to Egon Zill, a concentration camp commandant.

Adolf Hitler is No. 140, and Adolf Eichmann is recorded under both his real name, and his alias, Ricardo Clement.

In his letter to Koller, Hier wrote that "We formally ask your government and the Swiss Bankers' Association, to begin a thorough search of all records of the Swiss banks operating during World War II to ascertain whether any of the individuals on this list held a Swiss bank account or safety deposit box from 1938 on."

"If an account was opened, what is its current status? If it was closed and the money withdrawn, when and by whom? If the funds were transferred to another country, which country and which bank?"

To LOTTI REICH
Heartfelt condolences
on the passing of your husband
BENNY REICH
A noble friend of the City of Tel Aviv-Yafo
and of the Tel Aviv Foundation
We are with you in your grief
RONI MILO Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo
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The Rabin Medical Center
extends its condolences to
Mrs. Lottie Reich
on the death of her
HUSBAND
The Management of the Medical Center

The Faculty, Staff and Students of The Shalom Hartman Institute
extend heartfelt condolences to
Mrs. Bobbie Hartman
on the passing of her mother
BETTY WILNER
Shiva will be at 7 Graetz Street, Jerusalem
from Saturday evening, February 15
until Tuesday morning, February 18

On the second anniversary of the death of
DANIEL ROCKMAN
family and friends will gather at his grave on Sunday,
February 16, at 3 p.m. at the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery.

The unveiling of the stone of our beloved
JUDY ROBERTS
will take place on Friday, February 21, 1997, at the
Neve Hader cemetery in Hod Hasharon, at 1:00 p.m.
The Technological Information Center at E.C.I. Telecom Ltd. will be
dedicated in her memory, on Thursday, February 20, 1997, at 8:30 p.m.,
at E.C.I., 30 Rehov Hativim, Industrial Area, Petah Tikva.
Paul Roberts and Children

With deep sorrow, we announce the death, on
Wednesday, February 12, in Jerusalem, of
Rabbanit ESTELLE ETHEL ABRAHAMS
widow of the late Chief Rabbi Israel Abrahams
of South Africa.
The funeral took place on February 12.
Shiva at the home of her daughter, Dr. Rosalind Romem,
7 Rehov Beit Hakerem, Jerusalem.
The Bereaved Family

The Ramat Gan Sophie and Avraham Stuchynski Research and Nursing Center for Alzheimer Patients

announce with deep sorrow the passing of a dear woman

SOPHIE STUCHYNSKI

The funeral will take place today, Friday, February 14, 1997 (7 Adar 5757),
leaving from the home of the deceased, 4 Simtat Hazorea, Kfar Shmaryahu,
at 12:45 p.m. for the cemetery in Kfar Shmaryahu.

We extend our deepest condolences to Avraham Stuchynski.

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A president at home with his people



Ezer Weizman's 73 condolence visits strengthened the resolve of the mourners and provided a sense of national unity.

Amy Klein trailed the president

It is a private moment in a public place. As Pauline Posner lights a memorial candle for her son Gidon, her husband Charles puts his arms around her from behind and buries his face in her hair. For some endless moments they stay that way. Mrs. Posner's head down, the couple rocking slightly in the small hotel lobby overlooking the Tel Aviv beach. Then in a quick change of mood, they straighten up their faces and get ready to meet the president.

By the week's end, President Ezer Weizman will have visited all of the 73 families whose sons were killed in last week's helicopter crash. But the president's visit to each family is no standard official tour, not for pomp nor publicity; it is a personal condolence call from a man who relates to each family on their own level. By speaking — and listening — to families from almost every stratum of Israeli society, this man of many faces seems to express the sorrow on behalf of the State of Israel.

It is 9 a.m. on Wednesday. The Posners have flown in from England to mourn their son Gidon, 22, a sergeant in the Nahal Brigade. His brother Simon, 26, who also served in the army and lives in Israel, sits between his parents and the president.

President Weizman sits up as straight as possible and sips his tea. He speaks of

his impending visit to London to meet the Queen. "If we were in England, the Queen wouldn't sit with us, we'd get some cable expressing condolences," Mrs. Posner says. "It's very important for the Jewish community that you come to England," she adds.

Then the president moves the conversation to Lebanon: "Obviously someone made a mistake," Weizman says speaking like a British native. "I know that this doesn't help you now, but it might help some people in the future."

"What I want to know is what I can do for you," he says, turning to Simon.

"I want to strengthen the morale of the soldiers in Lebanon. That they should learn real Zionism from Gidon, so it shouldn't be a waste," Simon tells him.

"God forbid," the president says as he leafs through the pages of

the photo album of Gidon, in uniform on the base, on kibbutz with his adopted family, or sitting in the field with his only brother. "God forbid."

Before he leaves, President Weizman gives Simon his phone numbers in Jerusalem and Caesarea and invites him for the weekend, "anytime."

"The president did this out of personal feelings," says Simon as the family crowds around the beachfront window to watch the departing car. "He has been through all this. He understands what we are going through."

INDEED WEIZMAN understands grief. In 1970, during the War of Attrition his son Shauli, a paratrooper, was severely wounded by sniper fire. Then in 1991 Shauli and his new wife were killed in a car accident.

But it is more his personality that makes Weizman particularly suited for this monumental task. "He has no sense of distance," says one of the photojournalists who has followed the president during this whirlwind week. Weizman doesn't have any boundaries; throughout the day he talks to grieving families, MKs and mayors, security people and journalists in the same casual way: cajoling or caring, as if they were his army buddies from his long military career.

It is this guileless candor that has also worked against Weizman, earning him epithets of crude, abrasive and unfit for a diplomatic position.

Today though, it is this very characteristic that allows him to be so effective in the different homes, and he is forgiven for his sharp tongue — as he might be in the annals of history: warmth remembered, gaffes forgotten.

At a mourner's home in Migdal Ha'emek he talks to a bearded man in a suit sitting near the family. "What do you do?" Weizman asks.

"I learn [in yeshiva]. My wife supports me." In the silence one can almost hear Weizman deliberating whether to shoot out one of

Continued on Page 18



An honored guest at the homes of the fallen (from top left, counterclockwise): President Weizman (far right) pays a call to the family of Rafi Balalti in Migdal Ha'emek; visits the family of Hussein El Halb, an IDF Beduin tracker killed in the crash, in Zarzir; with Balalti's parents, Etli and Majloui; with Ra'aya Afner, mother of Avraham, in Kiryat Tivon. (Photos: Ariel Jerozinski)

Weizman redefines the role

By BATSHEVA TSUR

When history looks back on Ezer Weizman's term as president, it may well be this week's "whistle stop" tour of the 73 bereaved families for which he will be most respected and remembered.

By its sheer physical and emotional scope, the journey across the length and breadth of the country to be with the families of the fighters during the week of mourning, was a unique event.

To the difficult task of sharing in grief, Weizman brings a sensitivity born of personal loss — his son, Shauli, who was wounded during the War of Attrition, later died in a car accident — and an example of

how it is possible to overcome it. Unlike most of his predecessors, and in the true tradition of a military man, Weizman has taken pains to visit almost all the IDF casualties in the hospitals and the bereaved families in their homes since assuming office. The elation with which he announced his decision to visit the families, on learning of the helicopter disaster, was therefore very much in keeping.

In May 1993, when Weizman assumed the presidency, there were pundits who said that the presidency had started with Weizmann — Chaim, Israel's first president — and would end with Weizman — his nephew, Ezer. Chaim Weizmann, a renowned scientist, had been the archetype

for many of his successors, with the notable exception of Yitzhak Navon — an ivory-tower figure, who mainly met the nation on formal occasions and whose strength lay in putting across Israel's image to the politicians of the world. Weizman the second is perceived as a forthright and charming sabra.

With the adoption of the law for the direct election of prime minister — which relieved the president of the decision on whom to confer the formation of the government — many felt that the presidency had assumed a totally ceremonial nature. Strange then that the man voted in as Israel's seventh president should be a volatile former politician and air-force commander with a reputation for putting

his foot in his mouth and with little patience for the niceties of protocol.

And indeed, Weizman soon proved that words were not his strong point. There was his inaugural address in the Knesset which he rattled off like a military Order of the Day, and there was his muddled eulogy for Yitzhak Rabin at the state funeral, a missed historical opportunity.

On a different level, there were his unforgetable remarks about women ("meidele... I don't see men knitting socks...") in the case of a young woman who wanted to be a pilot. There was the furor he succeeded in creating about the gays ("I like men who are men and women who are women").

And at the same time, he was kicking up the dust with remarks to the government. It started most notably with his call on Labor, the party that had voted him in, to "stop and think" about the peace process after the terrorist bombings a year ago. Many asked if Weizman was returning to his Likud affiliations.

And when the Likud-led government failed to move on the Hebron deal, there again was Weizman, this time reasserting the role of an architect of the Camp David accords.

And when Netanyahu failed to meet Yasser Arafat, it was Weizman who invited the PLO leader to Caesarea. And it was Weizman who succeeded in twist-

ing the prime minister's arm as Netanyahu stood by his side to say the Prime Minister's Office would decide on a date to meet with Arafat.

Two trends were clearly emerging. First, Weizman was putting issues on the agenda and to a large extent he had become a *vox populi*. With his direct manner and his willingness to leap into any place, conversation or situation, he had become the mouthpiece of the man on the street, making them feel "one of the boys."

The presidency was becoming, as he likes to say, "the one official institution which people get up in the morning and do not hate."

Secondly, and as a corollary, Weizman appeared to be building

up a power base of his own. The presidency began emerging as a kind of check-and-balance with the power of the prime minister, even though the presidential role was divested of executive teeth.

"I am staying in the country," Weizman declared shortly after taking up office, apparently in reference to the globe-trotting propensity of sixth president Chaim Herzog.

"Since then, Weizman has taken a few trips abroad and these have made a significant economic, and perhaps also diplomatic, impact. But it is on the home field where Weizman has scored his greatest victory — to prove that the post of an Israeli president is still significant.

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I'm racist, you're racist

By THOMAS O'DWYER

"Are Israelis racist?" the visitor asked me. "Well of course they are," I replied, "unless you want to be racist enough to say they're not human."

"I'm racist, you're racist, we're all racist. Read your Bible. It's smite this one because he's a Stalacite. Smite that one because he's an Ammonite. Smite that miserable lot down in Gaza because they're... Well, they still are, aren't they?"

If you can put hand on heart and say you have never, ever sniped at someone and tossed in a mention of them being a German, a Moroccan, a Russian, a "stupid American" — and they're all Jews too — accept my apology and move on to another page.



O'Dwyer: Nasty people have given racism a bad name.

For the rest of fallible humankind, admit it — for someone, somewhere, you're a racist. Like George Bernard Shaw with the lady on the train, who admitted she might sleep with him for £5,000 but not for a fiver, "we've established what you are; we're just haggling over how much."

You can live with people other people don't like, or even "let your daughter marry one" and still keep your own pet dislikes. Take the French and the Jews — my daughter married one of them, I married the other. As an ex-Catholic I feel comfortable with Jews — we like having everyone else and feeling guilty about it.

It is not politically correct to be healthily racist. Oh, dear me, not at all, especially in paranoid, no-self-esteem, silly America. Some very nasty people have given common, everyday racism a bad name.

Of course if you are super-politically correct, then you can meet yourself coming from the other direction and be as racist as you like. I have in mind one of those intense Afrocentric revisionists that guilty America indulges like spoilt children of late. He lectures in universities on the theme that the ancient Greeks "stole" their staggering culture from, er, Africa.

Those Greeks! What can you expect from the sort of people who sleep with their own mothers? Trust them to develop an advanced culture a sneaky thousand years too early so they could conceal the fact

that they really stole it from some superbly advanced place like, say, 21st-century Rwanda or Burkina Fasso.

I was first accused of being a racist when I was at primary school. Our headmistress, wishing to impress the visiting senior parish priest, foolishly threw the class open for questions "of a religious nature." I asked why it was, if priests took a vow of poverty, the three parish priests were the only people in our district with cars.

I don't remember whatever answer was mumbled from behind the red faces, but I do remember the nasty second half of the day after the priest left — a blur of swishing cane and shrill pleas that God and his saints save the teacher from Satan's spawn such as myself.

By the time I was a teenager, I was out-of-the-closet anti-clerical and proud of it, expanding it to all sly religious "leaders" everywhere who preach don't steal, hate, kill, lie or fornicate to lesser mortals while using erudite texts to justify doing it themselves.

Yes a little anti-ism can be a very sane and healthy thing. Today it is becoming a necessary vaccine against the intellectual AIDS epidemic of political correctness with their Thought Tippers.

The analogy is not bad — you take a little of a virus which otherwise can be lethally virulent, kill it in an infusion of humor, and inject it into your healthy cynical glands. The banality of evil is bad enough, but the seriousness of really despising one's fellow men, women, Arabs, Jews, leftists, Bosnians, Chechens takes all the fun out of it.

When I first went to work in Dublin, the merciless factory floor in the printing works recognized my accent as Tipperary and launched into stream of "culchie" (backwoods) jokes and jeers. Here I was swallowing the same indignities we superior Tipperary folks had for years heaped on helpless "stupid" kids from Cork.

I had to go through it all again in England — some of it not so funny, for the Brits are among the finest (though sneakiest) racists. (As we say, British justice is a system that ensures a person is deemed innocent until proved Irish.)

In eastern Canada, I again left the ranks of the persecuted to become a persecutor — the poor "old Newfoundlanders" ("Newfies") flinted every Irish joke I and my British Brit friends had ever heard. Of course, there are probably fewer jokes about Canadians than about any other race on earth. They're so boring, no one bothers. That's really racist.

I can't say I've seen or experienced much worse (or better) racism in Israel than anywhere else — although the "kill the Arabs" mantra freezes my blood. How about changing it to a more traditional "smite the Arabs"?

Of course, now that I'm an Israeli citizen and have lived here for so long, people ask the inevitable lurking question — have I considered becoming a Jew, and if not, why not — know what I mean? No I have not. Why? Didn't you watch the "conversion rabbi" on television this week? I can't afford it. I'm not Jewish.

Strangers in our midst:



(Photo illustration by Jamie Levine)

Taunts, stares, insults, exploitation

Blacks and Asians have a tough time here, Judith Sudilovsky reports

are rather strange. Some people act extra polite and others are extremely rude. Sometimes I go to the supermarket and they tease me about being Chinese. I get upset."

Once Kim was walking through Mea She'arim and a woman walked straight up to her and stared right at her face. Kim, who spent eight years studying at Louisiana State University in the US and is used to being the odd woman out, just stared right back. A lot of times she walks down the street and children call after her "Chinese, Chinese" or "Japanese, Japanese," she said.

"People have a tendency to look at me," she said. "But here it doesn't matter if they are kids or adults, that's the difference with the United States. Here people show their curiosity much more. Curiosity is one thing. America is more racist. Here they are so busy with their own problems."

But, said Ben-Gurion University psychology professor Dan Bar-On, Israelis may be so busy dealing with security, political and economical issues that they don't have enough energy left over to learn how to integrate and accept "the other" into their society.

"It is a combination of indifference and curiosity. It's too easy to call it racist. It is more a lack of energy, empathy and acceptance,"

he said.

Thirty-three-year-old John Brown, an African-American who converted to Judaism while he was still a teenager in Missouri and came to Israel in 1983, has felt this lack acceptance various times. Once on Tisha Be'av he was doing his military service on an army base near the Dead Sea. Some hardin on the base were looking for a 10th man for a *minyan* and Brown, who sports a knitted kippa, was standing nearby, ready

"We work here the same as Israelis but get paid less. I don't feel good about that."

—Yung Chun

to join them. But they looked right through him. They had no luck finding somebody else, but by the time they were ready to turn to him, Brown had walked off in disgust.

"In Mea She'arim people stare

at you — especially if you wear a kippa. I've felt [racism] more from the religious 'black hat' community, but thankfully I've been really quite lucky. It depends on who you hang out with," said Brown.

"You even see racism in North Tel Aviv, especially from the old Polish generation. It's a weird feeling. But they even [look down] on North Africans."

But Brown said he sees "it as a lack of education, not necessarily racism in the pure sense. The attitude also involves the whole issue of distrust towards non-Jews, he said. "It's something which has more to do with the need for a change of character of society and it is going to take a while to happen, like in any society," he said. The inevitable integration of Ethiopians into universities and higher-profile positions will eventually help Israeli society become more accepting of diversity, he said.

YUNG CHUN Wong, a 34-year-old doctoral student in molecular biology from China conducting research at Hadassah Hospital, has in general felt good about her stay in Israel and takes the curious stares she encounters good-naturedly. She enjoys the work she is doing here and the relationship

she has with her colleagues, she said.

However, some of her Chinese friends have not been so lucky. They feel exploited by Israeli bosses who pay them half or two-thirds of what their Israeli counterparts are paid for doing the same work.

"We work here the same as Israelis but get paid less. I don't feel good about that," she said. "I feel that is not fair. I feel shocked. I don't want to come here to work as a slave."

Wong and her friends have learned to take the jibes they sometimes feel in stride, she said. "They treat even Russian Jews not so good, and I won't even mention the Arabs," she said.

All national groups have the problem of learning how to live in a multicultural society. It is, he said, a question of self-identity and for Jews the problem is magnified because of their history of persecution in the Diaspora.

"Every human group has the tendency to deny the other in order to preserve and define its self-identity. We have to fight this tendency, which means it is a never-ending job," said Dascal. "We have to impart to our children the clear idea that all people are human beings like us and have the same basic rights as we do. We have to do this for everybody — including the street-cleaners, the Romanian construction workers,

Continued on Page 18

Were we not all created by God?

Sarah Shapiro recounts a sorry story of a black Jew from Harlem who came round for Shabbat

That Friday night when my husband answered the door, perhaps my body language gave me away.

The first I had heard of Andy was from the head of his yeshiva here in Jerusalem, who called to ask if we could have a Shabbat guest. This particular young man, said the rabbi, was a black American convert from New York City, an exceptionally gifted and promising student. We'd be sure to enjoy his company.

I suppose I had expected some sort of coffee-colored version of a nice Jewish boy from Manhattan's Upper West Side to walk through my door. Although the person who entered our home sported the uniform black hat and suit of any other yeshiva student, as far as my habitual responses were concerned, this was just the kind of guy I'd avoid in the New York City subways.

Head lowered shyly as if to sense out the premises, Andy (not his real name) peered around inquisitively as he walked in. Possibly in response to whatever mixed messages I as hostess was giving off, his posture conveyed apology.

As our awkward, forced conversation got off the ground, we learned that our guest did indeed come from Manhattan's upper west side, but not The Upper West Side, of Rabbi Riskin's Lincoln Square Synagogue on 67th. Andy came from Harlem, the unknown and foreign land past 125th Street — to my mind, the other side of the moon.

He politely obliged my irrepressible curiosity about his past, though (to my chagrin) I would later find out that wherever he went on Shabbat, people always asked him the same question. How,

I inquired, did you find Judaism? My unarticulated emphasis was audible even to my own ears: "How did you ever find Judaism there?"

Andy told the story. One Saturday morning when he was 15, his mother had awakened him with this unexpected exhortation, "Come on, son, hurry. You and I are going to synagogue."

"Synagogue?" he murmured. "That's for the Jews, isn't it?"

Thus was he introduced to a religiously observant congregation in Harlem, of Black Americans practicing Judaism, numbering around 1,000 members, whose dogma maintains that it is they and not the Europeans who are the historical descendants of the Biblical Hebrews. So-called Ashkenazi Jews, in their view, are deluded by a millennium-long case of mistaken identity.

Andy then immersed himself in the Torah, finding himself increasingly excited to have come upon what his instincts told him constituted truth.

But as time went on, he also came across what appeared to be inconsistencies in the congregation's dogma, and questions arose in his mind that begged investigation elsewhere. He sought out information at Manhattan's National Council of Synagogue Youth, where he ended up studying for a year, before undergoing Orthodox conversion. At their suggestion, he eventually came to

Israel for more intensive learning.

BY THE end of the evening, it was obvious that we were in the presence of one of those rare bright young men whose sharpness of intellect is matched by a depth of compassion. In order to pursue his Torah learning, he was enduring alienation from his closest family and friends back home. And had forgone — he told us this wryly, with an enigmatic, sad little smile — his position of honor in the congregation: they hoped that Andy would be the Jewish Messiah.

It emerged in conversation that he was not in his late twenties, as his demeanor had led us to assume, but 18, a teenager not much older than our own. But he had already acquired a maturity that belied his years. He said that he loved the learning and loved Jerusalem. We asked if he was going to stay. Yeah, there was a minor problem that would have to be worked out, but he was planning on making aliya.

Problem? What's the problem? Well... with the children.

The children? You mean your brothers and sisters in New York? No... Here?

You mean the Arabs? No... the Jewish kids. From some of the neighborhoods around here. They say things. They point, laugh, that kind of thing. I know it shouldn't bother me, they're just kids. Rabbi S. is trying to do something about it. And there's another black guy in the yeshiva. He says

he knows what I'm talking about, he's had to deal with it. He says the answer is to just get deeper into the learning. It doesn't bother him so much, maybe because he's older. For me, it's getting so every time I go out on the street, I'm kind of looking around for the kids.

Andy came to us for Shabbat dinner two or three more times that winter. Gemara was getting more and more interesting, he told us. He and his study companion were getting the gist of learning with each other better and better all the time. And the situation with the Israeli children? Well, he was working on it in his own mind. This was where he wanted to be. Jerusalem was the right place for him.

Then one day I ran into Andy at the grocery store. Ahead of me in line, he wished me a happy holiday and I asked how things were going. He said the yeshiva was going very well, thank you. And the thing with the children? He looked me in the eye. "I don't know if I can take it anymore."

"What do you mean? You wouldn't leave Israel because of that, would you, Andy?"

"I don't know what to do. It gets to me," he said. That was the last time I saw him. I called the yeshiva a few weeks later to invite him for Shabbat and the secretary said he had returned to the States.

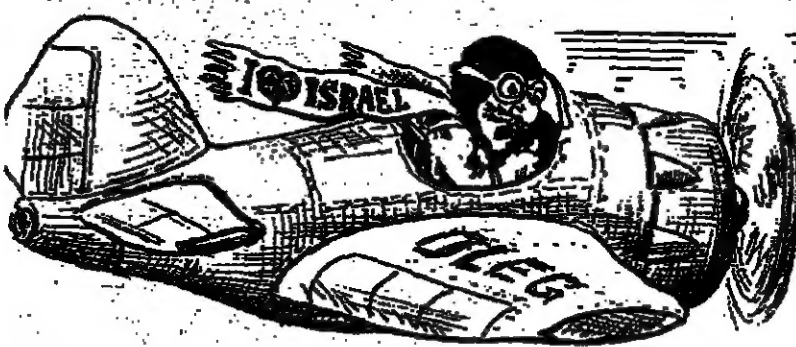
Shall we attribute his departure to our country's children behaving like children? Or to Israeli parents' gross failure to passionately inculcate the most basic of Jewish values: respect for the other, who was created by God — the other, who is not like you.

Where are you now, Andy? And who in the world do we think we are?



السلامة

Strange how we treat them



For the love of Zion

Christians struggling to stay here have a near impossible task, Judith Sudilovsky writes

Helen Cousins, 41, grew up loving Israel. Her parents taught her that it was the greatest country in the world and the Israeli army the strongest army.

When she was a young girl in the US she dreamt of becoming an Israeli soldier. So, finally, some six years ago she took the plunge and came to Israel. She started to keep kosher, observe the Sabbath and attend an Orthodox synagogue on Shabbat.

The only problem is she is Christian and therefore has had to fight tooth and nail to stay in this country. Even though she finally managed to get a visa, she asked that her real name not be used for fear that she would be deported.

She would consider converting, she said, but after her tangle with the Interior Ministry she feels too tired right now to start with the rabbinate.

Lee and Mary Brooks and their two sons came to Israel 12 years ago at the invitation of El Al Lee, an airline computer systems analyst, had technological know-how the airline dearly needed at the time. Their sons, Drew and Marc, now 27 and 30, finished high school in Israel and received degrees from the Hebrew University.

When Lee stopped working for El Al, because an agreement with the Histadrut prohibited any outside contractors, he began working for a German firm as its Middle East representative using Israel as his base. Then he retired and, after 12 years of living in the same house in Mevasseret Zion and making friends and establishing a life here, this African-American family decided to apply for temporary residency.

But their applications and appeals have been repeatedly rejected and after years of struggling to be given permission to stay, they have just about given up the fight and are selling their belongings. Well-meaning friends have suggested they convert to get citizenship, but that would be dishonest, say the Brooks, and they are not prepared to turn away from their strong Christian faith.

Luis Markes, 34, learned to be a grillman in his native Uruguay. Seven years ago the manager of the El Gaucho restaurant was in Montevideo and asked Markes to

come work in Jerusalem. Markes, who had never had much contact with Jews or Israel, saw it as a chance for adventure and to make some money and decided to give it a try.

He ended up living in Israel seven years, and now feels more at home in Jerusalem than in Montevideo. He was unable to renew his visa at the end of December and is now appealing the decision. He is currently in Uruguay for his first visit in years—he was afraid if he left the country he wouldn't be allowed back in.

THEORETICALLY IT all sounds so simple and logical for a non-Jew to become an Israeli citizen or

Hebrew language, or is settled in Israel or shows the intent of settling in Israel, then according to the law they can be considered for citizenship or residency.

Still, noted Clarence Wagner, director of Bridges for Peace, a Christian social welfare group, in practice it is often a Catch-22 situation—if someone applies for temporary residency they tell him he has to be here for five years; but they won't let him stay here for five years.

Israel is in this respect basically no different from other countries, insists Yosef Tov, director-general of the Population Department of the Interior Ministry, whose office is in charge of the committee which reviews applications for

country in the back of your head." "It is our responsibility to check every case and (if we decide against) it has to be able to stand up in court if there is an appeal. Most of the time we win," said Tov. "We can't let everybody in, but in general we do not close the door."

PEOPLE LIKE the Brooks, Cousins or Markes may not be so easily convinced. Their stories vary but the result is the same: though they would appear to be perfect candidates for citizenship—or even residency—they have all had to dance a tangled tango with the Interior Ministry.

Just as Australia seems to have the "Asian scare," Israel appears to have a "Christian scare."

The process is very easy, but they probably won't get [residency]. It is very hard to get. If you are Christian you can just about forget it. Things are much tougher now than ever before," said Anat Skolnick, a lawyer with the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

"But there are a lot of non-Jews who have connected their destiny to the destiny of this country. There are a lot of people who have spent a lot of time volunteering, working in hospitals. Still, I don't know if you were to say you felt very connected to Sweden, they would let you stay there."

As is often the case, what the law says and how it is actually put into practice are two different things. Take for example the Brooks family of Mevasseret Zion. By all appearances they are an upstanding family which has established roots in Israel and has integrated itself into their community. Yet the Ministry of Interior has used its discretion to deny them even temporary residency.

"When they offered citizenship to the Moslem Bosnian refugees I was surprised they would give it to them and not to me," said Lee Brooks, sitting in the living room of the home he has lived in for 12 years.

It is the longest the family has ever lived in one place, said his wife, Mary, and it is nice to feel settled, but the struggle has worn them down and she has little hope of being able to stay. Now she is just hoping they will be able to come and visit.

"These people are not Jewish and I understand that [problem]," he added. "If you want to keep Israel a Jewish state you have to keep the notion that this is a racist

Thousands of non-Jews do in fact receive permission to stay.

—Yosef Tov, Interior Ministry

resident. As in any other country there are rules for immigration. Israel, like other states, has the right to regulate who comes in and to make sure that their citizens' livelihood is not snatched away by too many newcomers. Israel, of course, has the additional concern of maintaining its Jewish character.

Since this country is by definition a Jewish state, Jews, their spouses, their children and their spouses, their grandchildren and their spouses all supposedly automatically receive citizenship.

Marrying a Christian or Moslem Israeli, however, does not automatically grant you Israeli citizenship and you have to go through an application process and meet certain requirements, much like those of a person with no ties to Israel.

For non-Jews who have no familial ties to Israel it is entirely up to the discretion of the Ministry of Interior to determine whether to grant them temporary or permanent residency, or citizenship. There are, however, guidelines in the citizenship law. If, for instance, a person lives here, or has lived here for three years within a period of five years before the request for citizenship is made, or has some knowledge of the

Must Israel's PM be a Jew?

Knesset Member Azmi Bishara (Hadash) was never worried that the attempt to pass an amendment requiring Israel's prime minister to be Jewish would pass. (In fact the Knesset presidium has now ruled that the bill cannot be submitted.) He is worried, however, that the attempt to introduce such a bill was an indication of more dangerous things yet to come.

"Of course this is a sign of racism," said Bishara of the proposed amendment to the Direct Election Law by MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet-Likud) which would allow only Jews to run for prime minister.

Bishara has said he would consider running for prime minister in the next national election. "Kleiner is not scared that an Arab will be prime minister. There is a majority which can stop that. He wants to stop me from even running. Kleiner wants to stop me from having that legal right."

"When you start with this there is no end. What will be next? Maybe in the future we will be forbidden to vote in the Knesset."

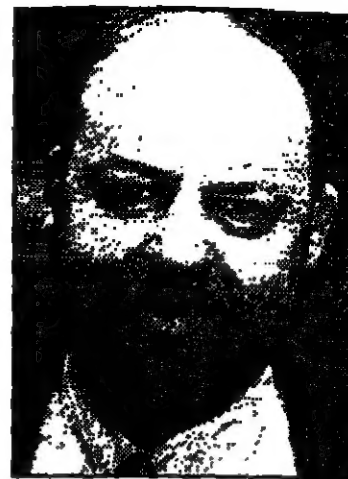
Kleiner maintains that he simply wants to protect the Jewish character of Israel. He compares his bill to the requirement in the United States that the president be born there. It is by no means racist, he says.

"Israel was created on a different basis than any other country in the world," he said.

"Other countries are established for the people living in that area. Israel was created for a people on the basis that they were Jews. If this is a question of racism, it should have been worked out 100 years ago."

The person who holds the highest office representing a Jewish country should reflect its unique character, and should be able to identify with the words of the national anthem and the flag of the country, says Kleiner.

All other government and political positions would be open to non-Jews, he adds. He is at pains to point out that although Israel is the state of the Jews, it has a minority population living on the same land which needs to be treated



Michael Kleiner maintains that he 'simply wants to protect the Jewish character of Israel.' (Isaac Harari)

ed with the same dignity and given the same rights as the Jewish citizens.

"We have to draw a border between democracy and the Jewish nature of the country. I don't believe that Henry Kissinger does not feel fully part of the United States because he can't be president," said Kleiner. "The head of the Palestinian Authority should be a Palestinian Arab and the head of Israel should be an Israeli Jew. It is logical and fair. It is not racism."

Regardless of how Kleiner defends his amendment, argues Bishara, it is an indication of the tendency to question the character and integrity of Arab Israeli citizenship. It effectively divides the citizens of Israel into two categories: Jewish and Arab. The one thing that unites people in a state with two nationalities and various religions is their citizenship, he says, and Kleiner's amendment will only succeed in creating more divisions within Israeli society.

In order for citizenship to be fair in Israel, it should not be connected to religion or nationality, he says.

"I don't like to say that Israel is a racist society but I can say that what rules in Israel is a closed nationalistic character, which has some racist tendencies," said Bishara. J.S.

Gentile volunteers no longer so welcome

For many years there was almost no limit to the times a visa issued to a Christian volunteer could be renewed. Then it was limited to 27 months, after which the person had to leave the country for one year and then could return. Now, according to various Christian and ecumenical groups, the time has been shortened to 12 months, and after one year they can come back for one extension.

There has been an understandable desire to crack down on illegal workers recently, said Clarence Wagner, director of Bridges for Peace, but the ones who are paying the penalty are those who do things by the book and apply for visa renewals. It is much easier to reject those applications rather than rounding up foreign workers who have overstayed, he said.

Yosef Tov, director general of the Population Department of the Interior Ministry, who has been working at the Interior Ministry for 20 years, said charges that things are more difficult now were "rubbish." He said the ministry has always more or less followed the same laws and procedures.

Not so, charged Dr. M. Bernard Resnikoff, emeritus director of the American Jewish Committee's Israel Office, himself a religious Jew. "They are issuing wholesale instructions not to renew visas," he said. "[This has been happening] since the new administration, maybe because of the rising influence of the haredim and the right wing who don't want the 'goyim.' It may be due partly to the fact that Jews don't know much about Christianity and have the image of the menacing goy of the ghettos, and I can understand that, but they are not taking into account the new era with the creation of the State of Israel."

There is no denying that there are some missionaries in Israel, said Resnikoff. But he has been involved in ecumenical work with the Christian organizations now experiencing visa problems for some 25 years and he can confidently say that these are not the groups involved in such work.

Wagner is more generous and said that the problems may also be associated with the fact that some new personnel have come in with the new administration and it takes them time to learn their jobs.

"I do not believe there is a devious plot to get rid of Christians. I am sure what has happened within

the past six months is just a lack of understanding and communication within the ministry with the new personnel," said Wagner, whose organization has been doing social-welfare work in Israel for over a decade.

"The increase in the number of foreign workers has grown and put a burden on society. They lose themselves in society and it is difficult to find these people, so it is much easier to get to the law-abiding citizens who walk through the doors of the Interior Ministry."

Tov said that his office must be sure that the people who are asking for volunteer status are really here to do volunteer work and are not taking away a position which an Israeli could do for a salary.

Bridges for Peace recently found itself in dire straits when two senior volunteers were refused the renewal of their visas. Both women left for a year after being here for 27 months, as required by the law at the time, and then came back. After six months they went to get their visas renewed—with a letter of support from Uri Mor, the head of Christian Affairs Department at the Religious Affairs Ministry—and were told to go home; they had been here "too long."

Three other volunteers were told their visas would be renewed for only three months although they had been here less than the one-year limit. They were told, said Wagner, that they abuse their privilege of being in Israel and don't leave when they are told. The Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies and Research and other Christian and ecumenical groups have also had problems renewing the visa of several of its volunteers, said Daniel Gwertzman, program director of the Jerusalem Center.

There is no question that Israel has the right to say "no" without a reason. America also rejects thousands of Israelis every year and Israel has that right," said Wagner. "But these people come and spend their own money here and spend a significant amount of time to stand next to Israel. They want to do something for Israel in an honest way."

"It is important since Christians have done so much bad to Jews to have some here doing some good. They are not here to take jobs or be a burden. One suggestion is that [Israel] learn how to distinguish between friend and enemy." J.S.

When Tatyana met Hussain...

Tatyana and Hussain Mesyef and their five children made aliya seven months ago from the US. Tatyana, a Russian Jew, married Hussain, a Palestinian originally from Beit Umar, 14 years ago.

As their children got older Tatyana decided she wanted them to learn about both their Jewish and their Palestinian roots.

In addition the health of Hussain's elderly father worsened, so they felt the timing was right to come to Israel and they contacted the Chicago aliya office, making it clear that Hussain was a Palestinian. They were told there would be no problem coming to Israel since Tatyana was a Jew and Hussain was entitled to come as the spouse of a Jew under the Law of Return.

Tatyana, a mechanical engineer, and the children all received identity cards. However, Hussain's name was omitted from the space left for "spouse" on Tatyana's card.

Hussain himself, a civil engineer, was denied immigrant status on the grounds that he had already lived here although he never had an Israeli identity card.

Last week, Hussain Mesyef was finally given an Israeli identity card

as a permanent resident, but not without being given a final runaround by the clerks at the Foreign Ministry who wanted a signed affidavit proving that he was indeed living in Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood. Still, he was not given the status of an immigrant even though he is married to a Jew.

"If I am entitled to it I don't see why I shouldn't get it," said Mesyef. "Why have we been put through all this for all these months. It's not that we are going to bring in another load of stuff, we don't need that. But this should not happen to anyone."

Recently Interior Minister Eli Suissa caused a furor within the Russian community when he said many non-Jews were coming in as Jews with forged documents and if it were up to him he would not have the Law of Return include spouses, children or grandchildren of Jews. He said many "goyim" were getting into the country. He did say, however, that as interior minister he was obeying the current law.

"The purpose of the Law of Return was not to bring goyim here," said Suissa last week on *Popolitika*. "The purpose of the law



The Mesyef family: We didn't come here to complicate the issues.

(Debbie Hill)

was a positive one: to bring Jews from the Diaspora. I am against the exploitation of the law of return. Goyim who want to come here and identify themselves as Jews, I won't let them come here."

On Wednesday Army Radio reported that many Ethiopians have been registered as "Christians" or "Ethiopians" or had no registration on their identity cards, although

members of the same family are listed as Jews. This also happens with the Russian immigrants.

Suissa's office did not respond to requests for an interview.

Without an identity card Mesyef hadn't been able to find a job—although Israeli companies he spoke with when he made his pilot trip last year expressed interest in hiring him.

"There is a human side to all this," he said. "We didn't come here to complicate the issues of the Middle East or make peace between Palestinians and Israelis. It was a family issue. I wish they could give us a reason or the logic behind all this. It leaves a bad taste in my mouth. If they didn't want us here why didn't they tell us that in the beginning?" J.S.

Continued on Page 16

Justice in Brooklyn

Verdicts were handed down in the Crown Heights murder case this week, Marilyn Henry reports

A mob of angry young men roamed the streets. The night cracked with the sound of windows breaking, shattered by rocks hurled with a vengeance.

Incited by shouts of "Kill the Jew," roving youths pounced on the passer-by and fatally stabbed him.

The riots that lasted for four hot August nights and days in 1991 made Crown Heights famous. No longer known as the base of Habad, the Brooklyn enclave became synonymous with a modern "pogrom."

And Yankel Rosenbaum, who was knifed simply for being a Hassid, became the bloody symbol of the Jew, threatened by neighbors, and betrayed by authorities who failed to come to the rescue.

Five years later, the US federal government prevailed where the state of New York had failed.

Earlier this week, two black men were convicted in federal court of violating Rosenbaum's civil rights.

The jury found Charles Price incited the mob, and Lemrick Nelson Jr., now 21, was the youth who had stabbed Rosenbaum, a native of Australia. Several years earlier, a state court had cleared Nelson on

criminal murder charges, which seemed to confirm Jewish suspicions that there was no justice in Brooklyn.

When the guilty verdicts were announced, New York remained eerily quiet. It was not the lull that precedes a storm, but a clue that Crown Heights, traumatic though it was, was not the prism through which to view black-Jewish relations.

In fact, there may be no prism at all.

"The reality is that there is no one black-Jewish relationship, but many different kinds of relationships," said Jonathan Rieder, the co-editor of *Common Quest: The Magazine of Black-Jewish Relations*. These relations, though, added Rieder, tend to be measured by highly sensational spectacles: the Reverend Jesse Jackson referring to New York as "Hymie town," the sizzling speeches of the Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, the riots in Crown Heights.

"These extraordinary moments become ritual spectacles that simplify what is a complicated reality," Rieder said. "We look at these

moments when the two communities seem to be squaring off when, in fact, there are millions of ordinary African-American and Jewish people who do not hate one another and who are not part of these frenzies."

When it comes to gauging relations, "Crown Heights is an aberration," said Rieder, who also serves as the chairman of the sociology department at Barnard College, Columbia University.

The view of race relations also is clouded by nostalgia. "Black-Jewish relations were never as good as the romance suggests and not nearly as dire as the headlines imply," Clarence Page, an African-

American syndicated columnist, said.

But what a romance. The Jews were disproportionately active in the American civil rights movement, drawing on a tradition of sympathy toward blacks that stretched back to the days of the great influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe. These Jewish immigrants were did not adopt white racism, which, at its most egregious, was notorious for abducting and lynching blacks.

"Eastern European Jews saw in the lynching of blacks a parallel to the pogroms they had suffered," Rieder said.

In Crown Heights, the histories of

blacks and Jews later would haunt events by highlighting their different ways of framing the world. Yet, on most days, Crown Heights was "not a bad approximation of coexistence," Rieder said.

While many Jews are in suburban or urban sanctuaries, the Hassidim live an integrated existence with blacks, who themselves are an eclectic community of African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans, people from the West Indies. It is a neighborhood of klezmer and calypso, Rieder said. "Here are two peoples trying to work out how to belong to America while maintaining what is unique about their religion, music, and cuisine."

On the right side of the issues

Charles Krauthammer, the unpredictable, confrontational, neo-conservative journalist, talks to Hillel Kuttler in Washington

AFTER Israel's shelling of a UN camp in Qana, south Lebanon, last April, killing more than 100 Lebanese refugees, much of the media asked why the IDF fired and whether Hizbullah had provoked it.

Syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer had a different take. "What are well-armed UN troops doing allowing guerrillas to fire rockets from within yards of a UN camp? After all, the UN itself says that each UNIFIL post 'is assigned responsibility for ensuring that hostile activities are not undertaken from the areas surrounding it,'" he wrote in the weekly *Standard*, a new American conservative magazine.

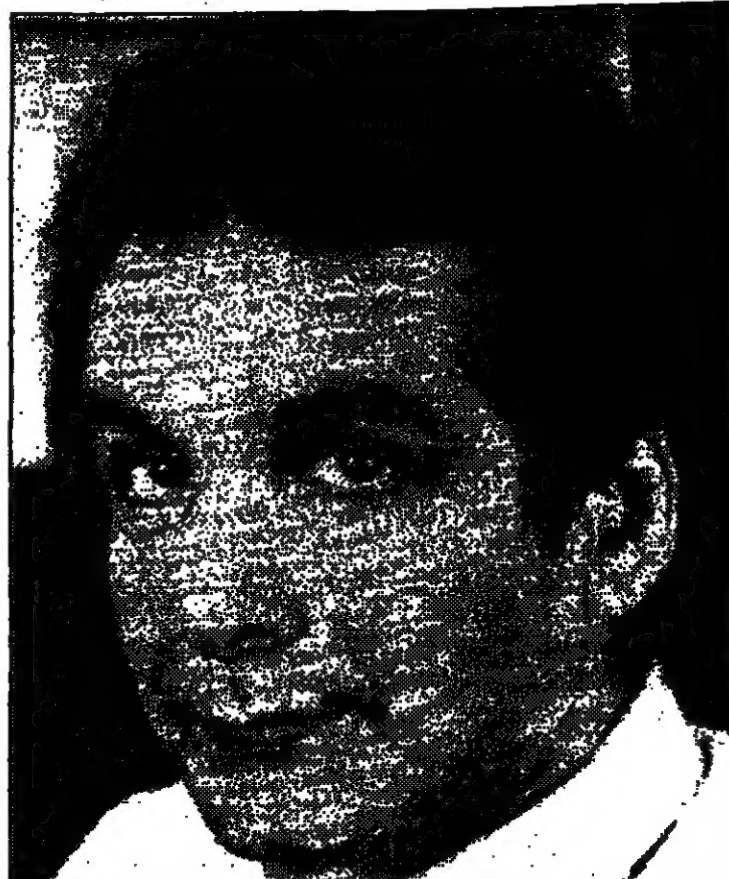
When he writes about the Middle East, which he does regularly, Krauthammer maintains that many things aren't right. He has criticized PLO chairman Yasser Arafat for evading Palestinian commitments under the Oslo accords and pronounced himself "absolutely staggered" by Labor's initiation of what he calls not a peace process but a "withdrawal process." Krauthammer also finds

Secretary of State Warren Christopher contemptible for leading what he calls a "hopelessly misguided" foreign policy meant to draw Syrian President Hafez Assad into reaching a peace treaty with Israel.

Then there is Assad. In a *Washington Post* column last June, Krauthammer penned a fictional letter from President Clinton to Assad that opened: "Dear Hafez: You sonofabitch."

Within days, a letter to the editor criticized the paper for permitting a key Arab leader to be mocked in this manner. The author, however, is unrepentant. "Sonofabitch is actually a mild term to describe a world-class thug and butcher," Krauthammer says now. "Even if it had not been a satirical column, even if I had meant it seriously, it would have been perfectly appropriate.... I think it's absolutely disgraceful how we sugar-coat the real nature of some of the thugs on the planet."

Having said that, Krauthammer might still have excused the US approach. "I am not against immoral foreign policies if they



Krauthammer 'has been to the future, and it works.'

work," he says.

MANY WASHINGTON columnists create a niche and park themselves in it, be it foreign affairs, domestic policy, or social justice. While such matters capture his fancy, Krauthammer is apt to tackle any topic. He torpedoes to the heart of an issue and articulates an

argument in a way that leaves readers impressed by the surprising logic of it all.

In short, Krauthammer, 46, is unpredictable. He wrote one *Post* column glorifying the film *Independence Day*. In a *Time* magazine piece, he wrote, in awe, of how IBM's Deep Blue computer won a game against chess champion Garry Kasparov.

Although a conservative, he's hard to pin down. In the *Post* he criticized plans to transfer a sex criminal to a mental hospital after his prison sentence was completed. He loves books and newspapers but is certain the Internet will eventually supplant them because he has "been over to the future, and it works."

He also cut against the grain of an America that cast Shannon Lucid as a hero for her recent marathon visit to outer space. To Krauthammer, "spending six months in an orbiting phone booth with a couple of guys named Yuri is an apt reflection on our times of domesticated, miniaturized aspirations."

Even when he doesn't have a particular issue in mind, "the Lord provides, with stunning regularity, somebody, somewhere, who does something outrageous, moronic, hilarious, unbelievable, parodic" to write about.

Says Gordon Peterson, a local anchorman on whose weekly program *Inside Washington* Krauthammer is a regular panelist: "He's absolutely brilliant. If I come up one person short, I can use him on both sides. But you can't pigeonhole him, that he'll argue the conservative line. He was one of the first people to say

Continued on Page 18

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AGAINST THE GRAIN



By HILLEL HALKIN

Beautiful faces. Beautiful kids. You wouldn't believe that if you just went out and photographed 73 young men in the street so many would be so beautiful.

What other country cries the way we do at such times? We do it so well, mourning.

And there's something a little frightening about it. Within hours of the helicopter disaster last week we had not only the news coverage and the photographs of the dead, and the announcements of the funerals, and a public day of mourning, and our favorite sad songs from our favorite singers, but also the TV panels with their commentators, and their public figures, and their psychologists, and their poets, and their bereaved parents from other wars and their friends of the dead—beautiful kids too, beautiful and solemn with the solemnity of death.

How did they find them all so fast? We've got it down to a fine art. And we've learned our lines by heart: "There are no words"; "Life must go on"; "We have a wonderful youth"; "That's the

price we have to pay"; "There isn't any choice."

And the young friends of the dead who will go back to Lebanon tomorrow listen solemnly. Their eyes on their elders as if trying to decide what it is that their elders know and believe. As if hoping that their elders do know and believe something. Yes, they nod, the young friends of the dead. That's the price we have to pay. Beautiful faces. Beautiful kids. God help us if there is a lesser price.

For years now we have been losing a guerrilla war in Lebanon. Or rather, we have not been winning it—which in the case of a regular army fighting a guerrilla force is the same as losing. The 73 soldiers killed last week were being ferried by air because the roads in southern Lebanon have become highly dangerous to travel on.

When an army cannot safely move on the roads, the guerrillas are winning the war.

But of course, we are not fighting a war for southern Lebanon. Nor is our real enemy the Hizbullah. The real war is for the Golan and unless they get it all back, the Syrians will go on using

the Hizbullah as their proxy. We could give it to them. This was the intention of the Rabin-Peres government—which, it is now fairly clear, had hoped to sign a peace treaty with Syria on such a basis before the last elections and was prevented from moving as fast as it would have liked to not only by the Syrians, but by a lack of public support here for such a step.

A majority of Israelis (I was one of them) thought giving up the whole Golan was a bad idea; many too (I was one) were enraged by how this welshed on Labor's 1992 campaign promises. But whatever arguments were mustered against such an agreement, had it been concluded last summer or autumn still we 73 soldiers would still be alive.

No doubt most of us (I was one) never imagined that the Hizbullah would be able to kill so many of us in one stroke.

This, it now appears, was an imaginative failure on our part but it would be cowardly to pretend because of it that we are not in some measure responsible for last week's deaths.

Are we prepared to face up to that responsibility? Are the 70 per-

cent of Israelis who according to a public opinion poll taken by *Ha'aretz* before the helicopter disaster still oppose a full withdrawal from the Golan, prepared to say to the families of the dead: "Your son was the price we have to pay"? Are we prepared to say to the soldiers who are in Lebanon now: "You are still the price we have to pay"?

It's not a question that one likes to have to ask oneself. But it needs to be asked.

There are many potentially good reasons for retaining part or all of the Golan: Military security, or its having been declared by the Knesset as integral a part of Israel as Galilee or the Negev. Or 30 years of possession and development. Or sheer natural beauty and wildness. Or the danger of encouraging Arab expectations of yet more Israeli territorial concessions in the future. We can give these things different weights. And then each of us must add them up and say: "What are they worth?"

And this time let us use our imaginations. We thought in twos and threes, and then there were 73. If—since we are losing the guerrilla war in Lebanon—we will be

obliged to wage a full-scale war with Syria in the future, 73 will seem a small number too.

And what of our government? It's time it told us what it has in mind. And if (as the first whispers have it) it is already considering eventually doing what the previous government did, then let it put aside the luxury of eventually. If we are going to meet Syrian terms one day, every day of procrastination means that we are killing our own young men in Lebanon.

But if we, the majority of Israelis and our government, are nevertheless convinced that the possible price of keeping all or part of the Golan is not too high and that it is the price we must be prepared to pay for defending our borders as must every country, then let us at least publicly define what those borders are and what it is that we are prepared to fight for. Even 19 and 20-year-olds who hope that their elders know more than they do should not be asked to risk their lives for what their elders have not even seriously thought about.

Beautiful faces. Beautiful kids. Let's at least make sure that we can look them in the eyes.

Beautiful faces, beautiful kids

Dry Bones



FUNDS



Preparing for Purim and Pessah

By REVEREE BLACK

Purim and Pessah are almost here. We have begun receiving requests from directors of clubhouses for youth in distressed neighborhoods asking if we could supply them with toys and prizes for Purim parties. We are also being asked to help finance special day-camps for these children during the Pessah holidays in order to keep them busy and off the streets.

Directors of clubhouses for the elderly are looking to the Forsake Me Not Fund to help with Purim parties and special Pessah programs and seders for those elderly who have no families and no place to go for the holiday.

No matter how much money is raised, there is never enough to do all the things we would like. So please chip in and help make the holidays a happier and more productive time.

Each of your contributions allows us to do just that much more. Do open your hearts to those in need. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000. Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

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A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

Two recent happenings involving foreign news media should have shaken our news-mediocracy, and the media world in general, but haven't, to the best of my knowledge: a newspaper and a cable-television network apologized for two separate outrageous items they circulated.

The official Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram* apologized for printing a series of reports saying Israeli doctors had injected AIDS antibodies into 305 Arab children in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Israel's ambassador to Cairo, Zvi Mazel, protested to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, categorically denying the allegation; *Al-Ahram's* editors checked with Egypt's ambassador to Jerusalem, Mohammed Bassiouny, who supported Mazel's denial; and *Al-Ahram* published an apology, saying it had based itself on "a report carried by international news agencies."

Most likely, those were not "news agencies" but antisemitic Internet Websites, some of them operated or sponsored by Arab groups.

Of course, an editor with minimal intelligence and decency would not have soiled himself in the first place by publishing a typical antisemitic slur of a class with

the medieval canards that the Jews poisoned the wells or were responsible for the Black Death. At most, he'd have mentioned it only in a vigorous denunciation of the canard and its authors.

May we hope that this is a precedent, and *Al-Ahram* will at long last halt the steady fare of canards and misrepresentations that it and its English-language *Al-Ahram Weekly* have been feeding their readers concerning Israel and its leaders, the Jewish people in general, and Zionism?

THE REPENTANT cable TV network is—believe it or not—CNN. Last month, a Los Angeles KTLA-TV news photographer in a helicopter got a close-up of the body of the just-murdered Ennis Cosby lying next to his Mercedes. The station didn't run it "because of a long-standing policy against showing anything graphic," the station's spokesman said.

But CNN, to which its Los Angeles affiliate had sent a copy, showed the close-up on January 16, at 2:02 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

There was an "immediate negative reaction" from CNN staff in the network's Atlanta newsroom and hundreds of calls of protest from the public, AP reported.

At 2:28 CNN anchorwoman Bobbie Bamata came on and said it had been "inappropriate to air that. We apologize for that, and to [Cosby's] family as well."

CNN spokesman Steve Haworth said Mike Klein, CNN's supervising producer, had ordered the apology. He added: "We are not in the business of showing gratuitously violent material on air. We

will only show the material that is necessary to explain the story to the viewers."

May we hope that CNN will muster the courage and decency to express similar remorse over their sometimes distorted reporting regarding Israel? Perhaps even correct it?

May we also hope that our own print and electronic mediocrats will once and for all stop focusing in such profuse, gory detail on disasters occurring here?

HERE ARE two examples of CNN's attitude in this regard:

A CNN Website "Special Report" lists and describes "Key players in the Israel-Palestinians conflict." There is Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who "has continued his hard-line stance, calling for a slowing to the peace process in order to protect Israel's security."

Imagine, our prime minister places such a high priority on our security!

On the other hand, Yasser Arafat "co-founded the moderate Fatah Palestinian group in 1956."

Even that pro-PLO propaganda tract *Politics in the Middle East* by James Bill and Robert Springborn notes that Fatah from early on engaged in terrorist acts.

Moreover, in August 1989 "moderate" Fatah's Fifth General Congress adopted a platform that, among other things, calls for "Continuing to intensify and escalate armed action and all forms of struggle to liquidate the Israeli-Zionist occupation of our occupied Palestinian land... and escalating the popular intifada aimed at ending the Zionist Israeli occupa-

tion..."

The Congress reasserted "the right of the Palestinian revolution to perform its militant tasks through any Arab land [and] emphasized... the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights and the right... to use all forms of struggle for their liberation..."

There is a passing reference to "Hamas terrorist acts," followed by the statement that Hamas "is known among Palestinians... for humanitarian actions such as building schools and hospitals and helping the community in social and religious ways."

The same Hamas that declares it a "religious duty" to fight Israel.

But not just Israel. The Hamas Covenant declares: "Our struggle against the Jews is very great and serious... The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight the Jews (and kill them)..." The Zionists... plan... is embodied in *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*... Leaving the circle of struggle with Zionism is high treason..."

According to CNN, the intifada was a "largely nonviolent Palestinian protest against the Israeli occupation under which many Palestinians were forced to live."

Thousands of rocks and Molotov cocktails hurled, bullets fired, axes and knives wielded against Israeli targets, taking a toll of more than 150 Jewish lives—"nonviolent"?

ON YET another matter CNN follows most of the rest of the world in remaining unrepentant.

Last November Wim

Of repentant news media

The first Jewish building fund

an august building to lift their spirits toward God, while others could do just as well alone in the woods. Indeed, two great sages, Rashi and Nahmanides, seem to take radically different approaches, hinted at in their explanations as to when the command to build the sanctuary was given.

Rashi dates the commandment to the day after the first Yom Kippur, following God's forgiveness of the Jews for having worshiped the golden calf.

Reading between the lines, Rashi is suggesting that God would have liked a nation with the ability to relate to the Divine in a non-material manner.

But when the Jews worshiped the golden calf, God understood that they were not disembodied spirits or intellects, and required a "pogo stick" to help them make the jump from a physical world to a spiritual dimension.

It is as if God were saying to the Israelites: "If you need gold as the object of worship, then utilize it not for a golden calf, but rather for an ark-cover."

Nahmanides disagrees. He places the commandment to build the sanctuary immediately following the laws of *Mishpatim*—a direct continuation of the revelation at Sinai, and significantly before the debacle of the golden calf.

God ordains an imposing edifice as a repository for the ongoing Divine message; the Temple was ordained as a necessary medium of inspiration.

The nature of their dispute is further demonstrated in their different interpretations of the following verse. We read: "And you shall place the ark-cover above, upon the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you."

Rashi is perplexed because this very instruction was given five verses earlier: "And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you." Both Rashi and Nahmanides try to explain the repetition.

Rashi attempts to explain it by citing the detailed description of the ark-cover (*kaporet*): "You shall make an ark-cover of pure gold... and you shall make two cherubs of gold. Of beaten work shall you make them, at the two ends of the ark-cover... and the cherubs shall spread out their wings on high, screening the ark-cover with their wings, with their faces one to another" (Ex. 17-20).

Given this detail, we might have concluded that the Tablets of Law may only be placed in the Ark after the ornamental ark-cover completes the design.

Therefore, explains Rashi, the second verse comes to teach that

the tablets must be placed inside the Ark *even before* the cover and the cherubs are attached. In fact, the cover and cherubs may only be added after the Tablets of Law have taken their proper place.

In stressing this idea, Rashi seems to be saying that the cover and cherubs, as beautiful as they are, must be seen only as adornment in relation to the essential Torah laws.

Indeed, if we look at the word for ark-cover, its root (*k p r*)—akin to *kippur*—literally means that which brings forgiveness. Rashi, for whom the golden ark is not the essence but the necessary concession, harks back to the day of forgiveness for the sin of the golden calf.

Nahmanides, on the other hand, interprets this verse very differently.

He believes it emphasizes the intimate connection between the cherubs outside and the testimony inside. The cherubs and the ark-cover are placed on the Ark because the cherubs symbolize the carriers of the law; its messengers, protectors and interpreters.

Indeed, Nahmanides describes the cherubs in mystical terms, quoting from Ezekiel and Samuel.

Inside the ark are the Divine words from Mt. Sinai, and the

Shabbat Shalom

SHABAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO FISCH

"Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them" (Ex. 25:8)

Just how necessary is an imposing synagogue for the furtherance of Judaism? After all, is it not logical that an invisible God, whose glory pervades the universe, can be found anywhere at any time? And does not the emphasis on laws (last week's portion of *Mishpatim*) and lore (the book of Genesis) imply that what one does and how one lives is far more significant than where one prays?

Nevertheless, following the Divine revelation and the myriad of civil, criminal and ritual laws, God commands Moses to collect donations of gold, silver, brass, scarlet linens, goatskins, and much more.

What we have here is the first instance of a Jewish building fund. Can't a person worship God without sitting in a beautiful building? Strong arguments, I believe, can be made for both sides. Some need

GRAPEVINE

If the cap fits...

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Though known to be a secularist, Supreme Court President Justice Aharon Barak covered his head with a large black kippa when he paid a call this week on Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau and Eliahu Bakshi Doron. What's more, it didn't peak at the top like seldom-worn kippot tend to do. It appeared to fit the shape of his head quite well.

PERHAPS BECAUSE there is a sense of infinity in the figure 88, the birthday celebrations marking the 88th birthday of Dr. Josef Burg, former government minister and four decades MK, continue unabated. And there aren't too many people who can boast getting a birthday present quite like the one he will receive next Sunday when Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Kurt Bledenkopf, Prime Minister of Saxonia, Germany, will lead the tributes at the Bar-Ilan University celebrations to mark the inauguration of the Dr. Josef Burg Chair in Education for Human Values, Tolerance and Peace. The chair, headed by Professor Ya'acov Biram of Bar-Ilan's School of Education, was initiated in May 1995 and honors Burg's life achievements.

SEATED OPPOSITE Jacob Frankel, governor of the Bank of Israel, at the head table of the

Jerusalem Economic Forum's gala dinner at the Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza hotel. Shmuel Slavin, whose appointment as Finance Ministry director general was ratified earlier in the day, was told in no uncertain terms by Frankel that for the sake of the economy there had to be (better) cooperation between the central bank and the Finance Ministry.

Others at the head table included Yaffa Deri, who came without her husband Shas MK Aryeh Deri, (who was otherwise occupied with the police). Ahuva Suissa, who came without her husband Interior Minister Eli Suissa, Ludmilla Tichon, who came without her husband Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Sarah Zissman who accompanied her husband Third Way MK Emanuel Zissman, Ruth Nissim, who arrived ahead of her husband former justice minister Moshe Nissim, and Michal Isaac, wife of JEF chairman Israel Isaac, who kept leaving her seat to greet latecomers and find places for them in the crowded hall. Tel Avivian Montie Salpeter wandered from table to table in a futile search for a seat where people weren't smoking.

BORN ON Valentine's Day, Chama Sheink was expecting to meet two friends for lunch two days prior to her milestone birthday, and was pleasantly surprised when she entered the new premises of Jerusalem's Pavarotti restaurant to see not two, but close to 30 people

waiting to give her their best wishes along with gifts. Sheink is a regular tennis player, a popular volunteer guide at the Israel Museum and an active member of, among others, Keren Klita, Friends of Herzog Hospital, the Friends of the Hebrew University, Emunah, the Rosh Hodesh Club, the Shaare Zedek Heart Rehabilitation Center.

When friends and associates got wind of the party many more wanted to come than could be comfortably accommodated, and organizers had to limit the numbers. Among those attending were her daughter Michal Waller, her husband's twin sister Jane Meerklin, her friend of four decades Eva Segal, well-known philanthropist Lily Silver, along with Rose Fish, Judy Duman, Iris Spiro, Sarah Chazan, Sylvia Katz and Delysia Jayson who are friends and colleagues from the various groups with which she is involved.

FRENCH FASHION mogul Leon Cligman was in Israel this week to oversee the opening in Tel Aviv of Israel's first Yves Saint Laurent boutique. Cligman is the chairman of the Indreco group, whose subsidiaries have controlling interests in companies such as YSL, Christian Lacroix, Claude Montana and other luxury international brand names. The opening of the store, according to Cligman, was "the next step in the evolution of Israel. I hope people can afford to buy these



For Pierce '007' Brosnan, living apart keeps romance alive.

garments," he said. "If people can afford to buy them, it means Israel is progressing economically." One of the indicators of that economic progress would be to see how many buyers there are for the YSL summertime, waist-grazing ribbed sweaters selling for NIS 980!

FORMER FIGHTER pilot Robert K. Dornan, a Republican congressman from California and a leading pro-life activist, made his 14th visit to Israel last week. Dornan, whose parents came here for their honeymoon in July 1929, and visited Hebron only a short time prior to the 1929 massacre, has a special attachment to this part of the world. Though not Jewish, Dornan chose to spend a night in Hebron with the settlers. He also went to Rachel's Tomb, where he tied a piece of red

thread around his wrist, and promised to leave it there "till it falls off." Dornan, who hopes to persuade Israeli women to choose options other than abortion, plans to return in the summer. He's not sure at this stage whether he will be coming as a politician or as the host of a national radio talk show for which he is currently negotiating.

THE FIFTH and current James Bond, Pierce Brosnan, who played Remington Steele before assuming his 007 image, says living apart keeps romance alive. Brosnan and journalist Kelly Smith have a son, Dylan Thomas. Brosnan, a widower with three children from a previous union, is happy to acknowledge his paternity and maintain his relationship with Smith, but he's in no hurry to get married.

TAKE A guess at the real name of songwriter/film producer Sam Roman. It just happens to be Edgar Brosnan Jr. The Sam is in fealty to his paternal grandfather and Segram's founder Samuel Brosnan, and the surname is what remains of his real name after three letters are removed. Segrams, of which EBJ is the CEO, has the controlling interest in MCA/Universal.

IT REALLY wasn't funny when camera crews had to take more than 10 shots of a closing scene in an episode of *Melrose Place*. Fluffed lines and awkward movements were not the cause. Beautiful blonde Heather Locklear had what was initially an inexplicable sneezing fit. Since she didn't have a cold, the general consensus was that she had an allergy - but to what? Believe it or not, the perfume of another actress on the set.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

Stalking the messenger in the Drag-On saga

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The Bar-On undergrowth thriller spreads its tendrils. State Prosecutor Edna Arbel raised the suspense level this week when she said the investigation may lead to criminal charges.

The story has so far cast some shafts of light into the gloom of the Likud leadership reign forest. There was a fascinating interview with party functionary David Appel in *Yedioth Aharonot's* weekend magazine, which exposed the wealthy contractor as one of the main string-pullers in the Likud.

At least he says so, revealing himself in the process as one of the most boastful and self-important egomaniacs in the party. "I am the whip, I am the power," he tells reporter Eilat Berkowitz. "I don't need Meridor. I don't need Iver (Lieberman). I don't need Bibi (Netanyahu). They all need me," he said. Poor them!

He then detailed how MK Ehud Olmert could not have been elected in the party primaries without him, how he and his father "made" Moshe Arens and how Bibi asked for his help to get David Levy back into the Likud.

Meanwhile, Ayala Hasson, the reporter who broke the story, is now in a situation like one of those prime-time thrillers in which the heroine is shadowed by the police on one side, the mob on the other, and some gray "third force" in between.

Hasson told Israel Radio this week that since her "scoop," she has been stalked by two groups - one she calls "the good guys," the other "the bad guys."

The stake-out has detectives on foot in her street, and cars with engines running waiting in King David, the only way out of Hasson's alley. On Wednesday she was being trailed by three female detectives.

Hasson says she knows which investigation agency is operating "the bad guys," who, she imagines are trying to find out what she knows and whom she meets. She also suspects them of passing out slander via disinformation in gossip columns.

Someone planted a report that Channel 1 news director Rafik Halaby, Hasson's boss, had a nervous breakdown the week after the Bar-On report. Halaby had taken two days off to be with his daughter during surgery. Other false rumors were sent to newspapers about other senior TV figures.

Television director-general Yair Stern said he is certain his phone, Hasson's, and those of two other TV figures are tapped, but he will not say by whom.

Last week the luxurious villa of sculptor Ilana Gur was broken into, just after Hasson had visited there. It happened while Gur was driving Hasson home. Only a bag of documents and a mobile telephone were taken - all the *objets d'art* and precious jewelry were left untouched. Stern is convinced this too is connected to the Bar-On affair.

WANTED: 1 OPPOSITION

Where is the Labor Party, more and more people are wondering out loud. Does our system not provide for an elected opposition?

The major opposition party - formerly known as the ruling party in case anyone has forgotten - seems to have gone missing.

The evacuation of Hebron (10)



If you're wondering who controls the Likud leadership, party functionary David Appel will be glad to tell you it's him. (Israel Sun)

months late) has come and gone: the Bar-On affair erupted with new layers of corruption being peeled off every week; a five-percent income-tax hike was inflicted this week by the man who promised "read my lips" no more taxes.

In the midst of all this, a peep from Labor might not have gone unnoticed. Peep came there none.

On the Lebanon issue and the permanent settlements it's hard to distinguish Tweedledum from Tweedledumber any more with MKs of both stripes holding joint shares.

Only Leah Rabin (and Shulamit Aloni) still remembers, it seems, that only a few months ago "half of the public," led by the political right wing, was engaged in crazed incitement against the man who signed the Oslo agreements and who was murdered for doing so.

The release of the Palestinian women terrorists raised feeble protests from the right wing. Netanyahu mumbled his now-familiar mantra about the agreement being made by the previous government which he is merely carrying out.

En route to the US, the prime minister had an imaginatively different version. "I released the terrorists for complex and complicated reasons, whose benefits to Israel will only become apparent at a later date," he confided to reporters on the plane. Another "surprise the world" mystery perhaps?

Or maybe the previous government's agreement was not so bad, after all?

And yet, from Labor, came the deadly hush.

The only people's opposition to the government now, quip Knesset jokers, are Meretz leader Yossi Sarid and... the media.

SOUL SNATCHERS

Prof. Shlomo Ben-Ami, MK and a candidate for Labor leadership, admits that by carrying out the Oslo agreement, the Likud has "taken away Labor's soul."

Ben-Ami says Labor's new leadership must infuse it with a new soul, a socially-oriented one, for the issues of the future will be social and economic.

Ben-Ami does not think it is fair to say Labor has disappeared. "We've expressed our opinion on the budget, on the tunnel disaster, even on the Bar-On affair. But Labor suffered an electoral defeat; it is in trauma. It is now undergoing a generation change and a leadership struggle."

The old Labor exists no longer, says Ben-Ami, and the new one has not yet emerged. In the vacuum each MK is busy forging his or her own political agenda.

Sources close to Ehud Barak, the front runner, say everyone now is concentrating on the primaries. "If you want a fighting opposition, just wait until June [after the primaries]," said one.

It sounds utterly feeble. Labor should take a close look at its historic British sister party. Labor leader Tony Blair is young, handsome and brilliant. He has completely remodeled New Labor, dismantled the old Marxist fringes, redrawn union-party relations, and driven the party spectacularly up the public opinion polls.

All the while he has delivered detailed policy speeches, kept up a high media profile and, aided by his powerful shadow cabinet and active parliamentarians, Blair and Labor have hounded John Major's scandal-racked Conservative government through the corridors of the House of Commons to the brink of political hell.

Here, it is not only Labor that believes Netanyahu is carrying out a Labor program. In a take-off of one the Likud's now laughable election slogans, "Peres will divide Jerusalem," MK Benjamin Begin this week coined the motto "Netanyahu is dividing Jerusalem." Now which party will use that in the next elections?

BRULIK



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

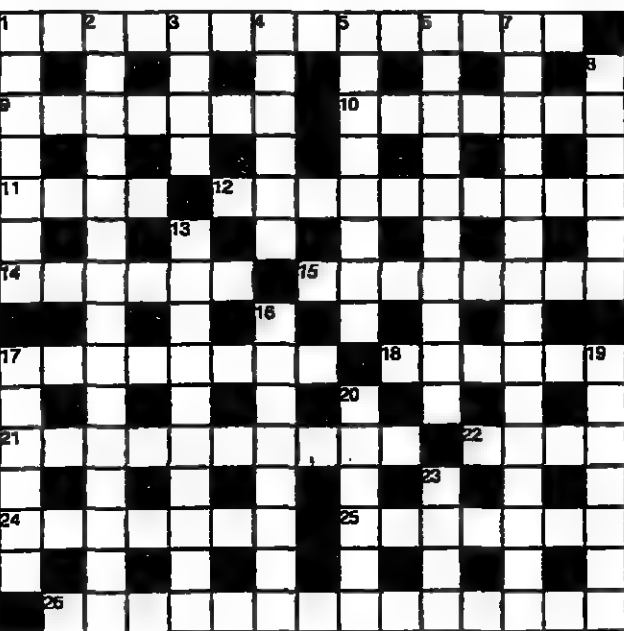
ACROSS

- 1 Tedious diet that served Charles I (4,10)
- 9 Sailors can, in tattered clothes (7)
- 10 This deficiency increases cardiac attachment (7)
- 11 Hole halved and approved as golf shot (4)
- 12 Neat barrier on the way (6-4)
- 14 The main road from home counties, abroad (6)
- 15 Open land at both ends of Langley, generally (8)
- 17 Enormous deficit in solid fuel (8)
- 18 Pierced different kind with iron (6)

- 21 Cheeky aroma common puddings possess? (10)
- 22 Instruments of war from Mars (4)
- 24 In orbit, one looks out (7)
- 25 Illusory hope of painter wearing black tie? (7)
- 26 Mysore sunset is varying in explicable quality (14)

DOWN

- 1 Trees making longbows (7)
- 2 Successful people in it suffering total non-reality? (8,7)
- 3 Long piece of wood (4)
- 4 Rogue lascar at sea (6)
- 5 Rest during battle (8)



SOLUTIONS

YESTERDAY'S Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1. Straw, 4. Berries, 9. Glacial, 10. Tescos, 12. Oath, 13. Canoeist, 15. Ark, 16. Trine, 18. Turn, 19. Coo, 20. Veruca, 21. Souk, 24. Lydia, 25. Elation, 26. Nasser, 27. Eucalyptus.
DOWN: 1. Sugar, 2. Broom, 3. Wall, 5. Ultimate, 6. Insular, 7. Scanty, 8. Flock, 13. Amputee, 15. Bared, 17. Evelyn, 18. Cadet, 19. Skinny, 23. Opine, 25. Fide.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 7 Norfolk resort (6)
- 8 Forsyte, The Man of Property (6)
- 10 Tell a story, recite (7)
- 11 Lariat (5)
- 12 Chief, playful (4)
- 13 Clemency (5)
- 17 Cautious (5)
- 18 Distress oneself (4)
- 22 Concede (5)
- 23 Accolade, eulogy (7)
- 24 Unskilled, drudge (6)
- 25 Catch in a mistake (4,2)

DOWN

- 1 Disgrace (7)
- 2 Adjust, true (7)
- 3 Tough guy (2-3)
- 4 Gather (7)
- 5 Awry, confused (5)
- 6 Racecourse (5)
- 9 Fame (9)
- 14 Impresario (7)
- 15 Great victory (7)
- 16 Try (7)
- 19 Lucky (5)
- 20 Prowl, skulk (5)
- 21 Easily angered (5)

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- Thursday March 6**
A DAY LIKE NO OTHER
Israel is not associated with heavy industry, and yet... This tour will visit the Haifa Bay, including the Oil Refineries, the Kila Aluminium Works, the shipyards, workshops and navy base, plus a boat tour of the bay. We bet you've never seen this part of Israel.
NIS 190 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Dr. Yohav Zohar
- Monday March 17**
LAND OF MILK AND HONEY
Cheese, honey, olive oil and wine - we'll taste them all on our way. We'll start at the organic dairy of Kila, and continue on to the olive oil press at the Druse village of Yama, then the prize-winning Dalton winery. We'll also visit the bee hives of Shadmoet Dvora and its silk production unit. The Golan is especially beautiful at this time of the year. Join us!
NIS 215 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Israel Shalem
- Tuesday March 25**
IRISES ARE BLOOMING IN GILBOA
Every year in March it happens. Irises cover Mt. Gilboa. They are the largest, most beautiful and colorful, and some are yellow. We'll visit Nalal Toot on the trail of Irises, the "Cyclops Hill" of Gilad and Givat Hanoreh. Lunch at Kibbutz Tzfat Zvi.
NIS 185 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Hagit Leshner
- Thursday April 3**
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NOW BOOKING FOR MONDAY 17th MARCH
ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY
In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitaller Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land, the Templar Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.
NIS 175
Tour guide: Danny Syon
- Thursday April 24**
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN
The Bar-Kochba Revolt failed. 600,000 Jews died. Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves, and Tora study came to an end. But a new center arose in the Galilee, and the towns of Zippori and Tiberias became famous. We'll visit them, as well as Beit Shearim, the burial place of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi and his family.
NIS 215 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Danny Weiss
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Friday,
February 14, 1997

13

BITS & BYTES

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Cinatron's investment rating lowered to 'hold': Oscar Gruss & Son has lowered Cinatron Limited's rating from "buy" to "hold." The investment company said in its report that it decided to lower the rating for the Givat Shmuel-based software manufacturer due to expectations for a weak first quarter in 1997. Oscar Gruss said that it expects Cinatron to generate "moderate" growth of 15.3 percent in 1997.

EduSoft signs bundling agreement with Creative Labs Inc.: EduSoft Ltd. (Nasdaq: EDUSF) of Tel Aviv recently announced that it has signed a bundling agreement with Creative Labs Inc., through its US subsidiary, EduStar America. Under the agreement, Creative Labs, a California-based multimedia hardware company, will bundle one CD of English Discoveries, EduSoft's English learning series, with its hardware, paying EduStar a fixed amount per each CD bundled.

LanOptics receives ISO 9001 registration: LanOptics Ltd. (Nasdaq: LNOFF) of Migdal Ha'emek recently received ISO 9001 registration, a globally recognized quality standard established by the International Organization for Standardization in Geneva, Switzerland. LanOptics develops Internet applications.

Radcom sells ATM protocol analyzer to China R&D center: Radcom of Tel Aviv recently announced the sale of its RC-200-C ATM protocol analyzer to China's Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications' research and development center, Radcom, a member of the \$170 million RAD Group, specializes in the design and manufacture of test equipment for LAN, WAN and ATM.

TTI announces \$2.1m. contract with Cyprus Telecommunications Authority: Team Telecom International of Petah Tikva yesterday announced a \$2.1 million contract to supply the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority with International Network Traffic Management Systems. The project includes the construction of a network control center in Nicosia with tools for monitoring and controlling international traffic. TTI develops software products and services for operations support systems and network management systems in the telecommunications industry.

Real Vision signs \$4m. placement letter with Oscar Gruss: TVG Technologies Ltd. (Nasdaq: TVGTF) recently announced that its new subsidiary Real Vision, Ltd. signed an engagement letter with Oscar Gruss & Son Inc. to raise about \$4 million through a private placement for about 22% of the company. Real Vision has developed a prototype of a 3D image generator. The product has civilian and military virtual reality applications such as training and simulation.

Ministry of Health Spokespersons Bureau

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Dr. Karni Rubin has been appointed Public Complaints Commissioner

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Scitex finishes 1996 with \$178m. loss

Hostile bidder Gilo to 'continue monitoring' embattled company

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Scitex Corporation Ltd., the embattled maker of digital printers and video equipment that was once among Israel's most successful high-tech companies, yesterday reported \$178.3 million in net losses in 1996, compared to \$34.5m. in 1995.

The company attributed this deterioration in its performance to "severe difficulties" in its graphic arts business.

Revenue for the year also dropped from \$730.3m. in 1995 to \$695m. in 1996. Fourth-quarter net losses totalled \$24.6m., compared to \$16m. in the same period one year ago. Revenues for the quarter were down from \$192m. in 1995 to \$168.5m. in 1996.

Scitex's Nasdaq over-the-counter stock, which less than four weeks ago still traded at \$12, dropped from its Wednesday closing price of \$10 to \$9.625 in early morning trading yesterday, immediately following the release of its results.

"It was a year during which the graphic arts market contracted sharply, many new technologies came to market, and fundamental changes occurred in the way our customers work," Scitex CEO Yoav Chelouche said in a statement.

Over the year, the graphic arts division has been hit hard by increasing competition and decreasing demand for its products, which include digital cameras and scanners, color workstations, professional inkjet color printers, and on-demand short-run color printing systems.

Following the release of its third-quarter results in November, Scitex announced a restructuring program in its graphic arts division - the company's largest sector - that included laying off 17% of its international workforce and the closing of major facilities in the US and throughout Europe. At its height, the division employed 2,500, or 69% of Scitex's 3,600 workers.

The company said it now expects to start reaping the benefits of the plan.

"We continue to expect the restructuring plan of the graphic arts group to result in a more competitive, efficient, and flexible organization," Chelouche said.

Scitex's other divisions - digital video and digital printing - experienced a better year in 1996 than the graphic arts division. Total revenues for the digital printing group totalled \$48m, 81% higher than in the fourth quarter of 1995. The digital video group reported a 17% increase in fourth-quarter revenues, which totalled \$2m. in 1996.

In 1996, revenues in Europe dropped 19% and revenues in the Americas declined 7%. Sales to Japan rose 54%, while worldwide sales increased 7% compared to 1995.

Scitex's stock started the year at \$15 and peaked at \$21.75 in April, when investor David Gilo, chairman of DSP Communications, expressed interest in

taking over Scitex. In March, Gilo proposed to pay \$20 a share for Scitex. He increased the offer to \$25 a share in April, but dropped the bid in May. Following Scitex's rebuff of Gilo's proposal and his withdrawal, Gilo told *Bloomberg Business News* he would "continue to monitor developments at Scitex closely."

This week rumors resurfaced that Gilo had renewed his bid to purchase Scitex shares. However, top officials at Scitex as well as at International Paper, a leading shareholder, denied the reports. A representative of International Paper arrived yesterday for a meeting at Scitex.

Earlier in the week, Scitex reported that Patrick Kareiva resigned as president and CEO of Scitex America. Shlomo Shamir was appointed to serve in his place on an interim basis.

Spokesmen for Scitex yesterday denied reports in the *Ha'aretz* daily that other top management would be resigning from the company.

Yugo carmaker Zastava mulls foreign partner

BELGRADE (Reuters) - The Yugoslav car manufacturer Zastava of Kragujevac said yesterday it will decide on a new foreign partner within the next three months, despite some industry scepticism about the company's prospects.

"The talks have narrowed to two from eight potential partners," said Zvonko Osrecki, spokesman of Zastava Group, which comprises 48 subsidiaries.

"Plans are to replace the existing production program with a new one with the output reaching 150,000 vehicles by the end of the century," he told Reuters.

Local media earlier reported that talks between car maker Zastava and South Korean Hyundai Corp were in the final phase and that a contract was expected to be signed later this month.

Osrecki refused to comment, but said: "One potential partner is from Europe and the other one from the Far East."

The Zastava car plant, which produces the small compact Yugo car, was one of the former Yugoslavia's prime hard-currency earners, providing millions of dollars in badly

needed cash for the entire group just five years ago.

Hit by the break-up of the former Yugoslav federation, four years of crippling war-related UN sanctions, loss of markets and mismanagement, Zastava's car production has slumped to about 10,000 vehicles last year from as much as 200,000 in 1990.

"Our system is exhausted. And we must upgrade our outdated technology to renew our range of products and increase productivity," Osrecki said.

But an industry official expressed doubts any foreign partner would be interested in making any kind of deal with Zastava before it clears its outstanding debts.

"It owes 90 million German marks to Italy's Fiat," he said, talking under condition of anonymity. "It must also deliver a few thousand vehicles paid for in 1991. And what about delayed payments to its employees?"

Securities Authority delays Bank Discount share offer

Office awaits bank's final '96 results

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Bank Discount's share issue will be delayed, following the Securities Authority's failure to approve the planned public offering of 17 percent of the bank's shares.

The Securities Authority was expected to approve the banks' prospectus yesterday, enabling the offering to take place next Thursday.

But after having examined the prospectus, the authority decided to subject the approval to the receipt of additional information regarding Bank Discount's financial statements for the fourth quarter of 1996.

The results are expected to include a significant increase in the provision for doubtful debts clause, which includes the building sector.

MI Holdings, the government-owned company in charge of the bank sale, Bank Discount managers, underwriters and Securities Authority representatives met yesterday in a feverish effort to arrange for the issue to go forward.

MI Holdings and Bank Discount's goal is to publish the prospectus based on Bank Discount's financial statements for the first three quarters of 1996. According to the Securities Authority's regulations the deadline for publishing a prospectus based on third-quarter financial statements is the end of February.

The issue, which is in the framework of the government's privatization plans, is expected to raise a total of NIS 650 million. The bank has been valued for this offering at NIS 3.9 billion.

In a statement to the stock exchange, the bank said the principal reason for the delay is the bank's forecast that it will have to significantly increase its specific provisions for doubtful debts in the fourth quarter of

1996, compared with the third quarter of the year. As a result, the bank expects fourth-quarter net profits to be much lower than net earnings in the third quarter, which amounted to NIS \$1.6m.

The expected rise in doubtful debt provisions derives from "a worsening in the financial situation of a number of large borrowers in the construction sector," said Bank Discount in the draft prospectus.

The Securities Authority approval of the prospectus is subject to the bank's giving it accurate, quantitative data on the relevant issue, which at this point in time, we do not have," said Bank Discount.

Capital market sources said Bank Discount has already given the Securities Authority some of the additional information requested.

Underwriters of the issue pre-

dict the offering will go ahead based on Bank Discount's financial statements for the third quarter.

They said they expect the offering to be delayed by about a month, assuming that the Securities Authority will be satisfied with additional clarifications and will be willing to extend the prospectus publication deadline.

MI Holdings general manager Meir Yacobson could not be reached for comment.

Discount Bank's shares fell 4% on low turnovers on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday, as investors reacted to the announcement of difficulties in the share offering and rumors that it may be canceled.

Earlier this week, the pre-sale of Bank Discount's shares to institutional investors closed at NIS 171 per unit, about 0.6 percent above the minimum price.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	4.000	4.250
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	1.825	1.986
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (13.2.97)

Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
U.S. dollar	3.5958	3.8538	3.24	3.41	3.5140
German mark	3.2053	3.3587	2.84	2.99	3.0410
French franc	1.8811	1.9858	1.68	1.78	1.8860
Japanese yen (100)	5.4032	5.6804	5.31	5.57	5.4515
Dutch florin	0.5818	0.5810	0.57	0.58	0.5884
Swedish krona	2.8811	2.7041	2.61	2.75	2.6938
Norwegian krone	1.7801	1.7784	1.72	1.81	1.7703
Finland mark	2.2543	2.3212	2.24	2.36	2.3104
Australian dollar	0.4482	0.4555	0.44	0.47	0.4534
Canadian dollar	0.4883	0.5054	0.48	0.52	0.5034
S. African rand	0.5152	0.5238	0.50	0.54	0.5212
Belgian franc (10)	0.6853	0.6761	0.65	0.68	0.6723
Austrian schilling (10)	2.4408	2.4799	2.39	2.52	2.4892
Italian lira (1000)	2.5436	2.5847	2.48	2.63	2.5717
Spanish peseta (100)	0.7528	0.7948	0.68	0.77	0.7598
Israeli new sheqel	0.9514	0.9688	0.93	0.99	0.9629
Israeli new sheqel (10)	1.9591	2.0304	1.96	2.09	2.0306
Israeli new sheqel (100)	19.591	20.304	19.6	20.9	20.306
Israeli new sheqel (1000)	195.91	203.04	196	209	203.06
Israeli new sheqel (10000)	1959.1	2030.4	1960	2090	2030.6
Israeli new sheqel (100000)	19591	20304	19600	20900	20306
Israeli new sheqel (1000000)	195910	203040	196000	209000	203060

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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MOVING - HEATER, CH

Public opposes Friday bank closure

By URIEL HEILMAN

The public seems united in its opposition to closing banks on Fridays, as bank workers are demanding. Many people, who admit that they no longer consider Friday a regular workday, say they find having a day off on Friday helpful particularly because most banks and businesses are open, enabling them to take care of matters to which they cannot attend on Shabbat.

"It's not right," insisted Michal, who was waiting in line yesterday evening at a bank in downtown Jerusalem. "Friday is the day I take care of all my errands."

Roni, a Jerusalem taxi driver infuriated by the prospect of bank employees taking Fridays off, declared, "What should we close the whole state on Friday? Friday for the Muslims, Shabbat for us and Sunday for the Christians?"

Enraged by what he considered already inflated salaries for bank employees, Roni remarked sarcastically, "Let them not work at all!"

Philip Drachman, a recent immigrant from London, was equally adamant in his opposition to the proposal, but somewhat more compromising in his approach. He asserted that here, as opposed to in England and the US, "banks are there to serve themselves."

"I expect the bank to be open when I need it to be open," he continued, suggesting, "if they want to close banks on Fridays, let them increase their hours during the week."

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PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 7

those remarks he is famous for.

"You know where I'd be if I let my wife support me? Without a house," he says. Everyone laughs - as they have throughout the day, even in the most serious of moments.

It's about midday when the president shows up at the Afner home in Kiryat Tivon. The Afners take the president's visit in their stride - they straighten a few chairs but they are still eating lunch until moments before he arrives. In this quaint, upscale northern town, the president seems to fit right in. He stretches out in the mauve recliner in the corner of the room, in between Ra'aya and her husband Yosi.

"I want to tell you about Avi," Mrs. Afner says calmly after the president and Mr. Afner talk quietly about the construction business, tourism and the economy. "He was a philosopher. He always questioned everything ever since he was in nursery."

"Ah, so he was going to be a lawyer," smiled Weizman.

"No, no. A poet. He wanted to write and teach," Mr. Afner said.

"You know," the president said, stroking his chin. "People talk about the lack of motivation in the army, and from the families I've met like yours, I say that it's something the psychologists make up because they have nothing else to do."

In reaction, the Banks Association said the Antitrust Court rejected the banks' request to close on Fridays because it would hinder competition. The association claims a strike today would be a violation of the law.

First International Bank workers said the bank's branches will be closed, despite the National Labor Court decision to treat them differently than the rest of the banking sector and issue an injunction against their strike.

The injunction was issued on the grounds that they have already entered negotiations with management on the issue.

the Afners agree that the president's visits around the country are important. But Mrs. Afner, her face swollen but dry, says: "Nothing helps. I understand that something like this will be with me forever."

Her husband adds: "There's no such thing as dealing with death. Only with life."

HOW DO the Beduin mourn? Quietly and slowly, in large green-walled tents outside their homes. They sit there for a month until the pain is not so bad, says Yusef, the brother of St-Sgt. Major Hussein El Haib, one of the Beduin cousins from this town of Zarzir who died in the helicopter crash.

"We are sad about everyone who has fallen," says Yusef, who at 31 is a year younger than the brother of whom he says, "everyone who met him loved him."

He shrugs as if he takes the president's visit for granted but there is an undertone of pride in his voice. "We are like every citizen of Israel. We are part of this country, and we will continue to serve in the army."

Burners filled with charcoal heat the brass urns brimming with tea, a thick, bitter drink made of coffee essence. The heat also warms the group of men sitting around in a circle - brothers, cousins, nephews, uncles, and Hussein's father, who pensively paces the long walkway toward the house.

Only inside will El Haib meet the president with no cameras.

The pack of press wait outside and assault the president: "Are you planning on pulling out of Lebanon?" they ask.

wrote his thesis on John Stuart Mill's concept of aesthetics - "as abstract as you can get," he says - and while there he decided on medicine instead.

That was his "little crisis" in August 1971, when Krauthammer called Harvard from England to reclaim his spot in their medical school and jetted there the next day. He went on to become a psychiatrist.

ISSUES

Continued from Page 10

[Bob] Dole was running a terrible campaign."

In life, as in writing, Krauthammer jumps around. This is someone who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1986, a mere three years into the business. He studied political science, went to Oxford and

"Friends," Weizman says right before he enters the house. "I am here to pay a condolence call, not to talk about Lebanon." But inside, sitting together with the family and members of the Druse and Beduin community, in his first sentence the president does just that.

"We have to change something in Lebanon," says Weizman, sinking into the pillows of the living-room tapestry couch. "Too many Beduin soldiers have served in Lebanon. Too many have fallen." It is estimated that 40 soldiers of the El Haib clan have been killed in the course of military duty.

"I was at the memorial for 112 Beduin soldiers," Weizman says, referring to his mid-morning trip to Bir al-Maksur. "Something must be done. The Beduin have added tremendously to the country."

"We wish that the whole country was like the army!" one of the men half jokes. Another gets up to speak: "On behalf of the Beduin community, we say that the only way to end the deaths and the conflict is with the peace process."

Talk of the peace process continues in Kamal El Haib's house. El Haib, 25, was also a Beduin tracker. Here there is no official recognition, no loud speeches. President Weizman sits in the corner, legs crossed, his hand covering his mouth as he leans sideways to talk conspiratorially with Kamal's father. In the casual atmosphere some officials complain of funding that was promised to them and hadn't come. The president offers to help. Talk turns to the peace process: "How can we achieve peace in Lebanon? Nothing is accomplished until we speak with

him for taking photographs near the border in Kiryat Shmona. He picked grapes on Moshav Nir Etzion and worked on an archaeological dig near the Temple Mount. "I loved it," he says. "It was paradise."

Krauthammer hopes to return this summer with his wife Robyn and son Daniel, 11, but first he wants to take a preliminary trip himself, to see whether it can be done. And that necessitates shipping over his custom-built Dodge Caravan, which is proving to be a logistical headache.

The Krauthammer family has done its fair share of traveling. His brother Marcel was born in Brazil, his mother Thea is Belgian. Krauthammer's late father Shulim was from Galicia and became a naturalized French citizen who fought for France in World War II, and afterwards settled in Cuba where he produced industrialized diamonds, a cutting tool, for the US Army. He later moved to New York - where Charles was born - went into real estate and found himself doing so much of his business in Montreal that he moved the family there.

Krauthammer attended the city's United Talmud Torah through high school before enrolling in McGill University. It was there that his political and journalism careers were launched. At 19 he engineered a coup against the editor of the campus newspaper because it was run by students Krauthammer

KRAUTHAMMER has been prevented, by his disability, from visiting Israel.

He hasn't been here since 1971. On visits in 1968 and 1970 he rented a motorcycle and scooted all over the country. He ventured alone into the heart of the West Bank. Israeli police once detained

TAUNTS

Continued from Page 8

the Arab workers, or Russian and Ethiopian immigrants.

"It is not important if they are Jewish or not Jewish, they first and foremost are human beings. Perhaps this belief is easy to impart, but the actions derived from this are not."

Dascal believes the increased number of foreigners passing through Israel will have a positive effect on the Israeli character since it will enlarge people's conceptual world by exposing them to different nationalities. The fact that Israelis are traveling more now is also a good thing, he said.

UNTIL RECENTLY Israel was a very isolated society besieged on all sides by hostile non-Jewish forces and Israelis felt that in a moment of danger the world would not stand by them, said Dr.

LOVE OF ZION

Continued from Page 9

agreed to give them a six-month extension and to submit their case to the review committee, but Skolnick is not optimistic.

"I feel like this is my country in a Jewish-Israeli way, not in a Christian way," said Cousins. "The Bible makes it clear that Israel belongs to Jews and not Christians. I have a right to feel a connection to Israel especially when there are so many Jews who don't. But I really don't know if there is a place for non-Jews here. I thought the Likud government would be more open to Christian Zionists but I was surprised and shocked. Things are worse now."

Christians like herself could be strong defenders of Israel abroad, she said, but it is hard to feel positive about a place whose officials have treated her with such disregard. Still, said the Brooks, despite the way they have been treated by the government, they would never speak a bad word about Israel.

Syria," Weizman says, opening the floor up to discussion about Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinians.

Outside the second-story apartment that overlooks a yard with goats and crowded clotheslines, relatives stand in line to greet the president. Weizman pumps their hands, one by one. He stops and almost hugs one of the men, a St-Sgt. Major who was injured in the army some time ago. Weizman visited him while he was in the hospital. Even the security crew remembers.

JUST AS big a crowd - this time men and women - fill the room in Migdal Ha'emek.

Eni Balalti is perched by the president's feet, holding stacks of photo albums of her son Rafi, 20, a staff sergeant-major in the Nahal brigade. "He really loved the army," Mrs. Balalti cries.

Weizman takes her hand and speaks quietly to her. On a mattress against the wall the rest of the family leans against each other in silence. Rafi's four younger brothers and sisters and their father, Majdoun.

"I want you to know that this is a terrible thing, and I cannot lessen what happened," Weizman says for the whole room to hear. "But we have to look back on what's happened in the last 24 years since the Yom Kippur war and see what we have accomplished. Yesterday, King Hussein called me on the telephone to offer condolences. Who would have ever dreamed we'd have come this far?"

Weizman beckons Mr. Balalti. "I see you, I see your hands - working hands - and I say, this is Israel."

WHAT DO the president's visits really accomplish? The families are still bereaved; their sons will forever be gone.

But in these moments, an hour at best, each family is on its best behavior. They perk up, they shine for the president. They give him the best chair in the house, lean forward to catch his low tones, and take him into their hearts. Whether the resolute sabra composure of the Afner family, the raw, plaintive mourning in Migdal Ha'emek, or the quiet Beduin determination to be accepted as Israelis, each family introduces the president to their son, with pictures and with words.

"They weave their sons into the fabric of President Weizman's memory, just as the president ties the vagrant strings of Israeli society into one long anecdote that continues from house to house. "Do you know what kind of family I met in Tiberias yesterday?" he asks the Afners in Kiryat Tivon. "Just this morning I met a wonderful family in Tivon," he says to the crowd in Migdal Ha'emek.

"How do you do it?" Mrs. Afner asks in Kiryat Tivon.

"It's not that I give. You are all giving to me," Weizman says.

To Rafi Balalti's mother President Weizman says before he leaves, "I know how hard it is. Eni, but we have to be able to look back and see how much we've accomplished. We get our strength from there."

As the president ambles through the double line flanking the exit of the Balalti house in Migdal Ha'emek, an old Sephardi woman calls out: "You unite us, President Weizman. God bless you."

calls Maoists. He was then asked to run it, and in his first editor's column he called it "The one thing I'm proudest about: a defense of pluralism."

Today [it] seems pretty ordinary. But in the climate of 1969, to defend the right of people to express their views and to say that a newspaper ought to publish all views and not be an instrument of class warfare, was pretty unusual," he says.

These days, Krauthammer accepts the label "neo-conservative" but says he stands out from most "neo-cons" by never having been a radical, of not riding the "great trajectory from left to right" that others had - though he was a Social Democrat in his teens. During the 1980s he wrote fervently against the US pursuing a nuclear weapons test-ban treaty, and on behalf of the Nicaraguan contras.

"Basically, I think that the hard-line Cold War view that I was attached to has been totally vindicated by history. Considering that Communism was the second-greatest evil of this century, to have taken even a very minor part in opposing it was quite satisfying."

Krauthammer seems set for good as a writer, but at the same time does not preclude his jumping back into a previous life. "That's the agony of growing older. You have to close the doors as you go along. ... You finally have to realize you can't do everything."

Ze'ev Katz, founder and member of the Israeli Association for Humanistic Judaism and a senior lecturer in history at the Hebrew University. But, he believes, with the peace process doors have opened and the image of a persecuted society is changing.

"Still, said Katz, the underlying feeling of 'Jews versus non-Jews' has very much influenced the Jewish psyche, starting from the very beginning of this century with its pogroms and on through to the Holocaust. It continues to influence the Israeli character even today and this is reflected in society's attitudes towards the other, he said.

"Historically this has been a very long experience and it is very deep inside us. This feeling remains even inside the most open, liberal, forward-thinking, humanistic Jew," he said. "Yuval Rabin made an agreement with the rabbis of Judea and Samaria not to call for violence against any Jew. But what about non-Jews?"

leave us alone. But this is the Holy Land. It is the land of the Bible. It didn't start in 1948. It started with Abraham and Moses and when Jesus came to this land."

Of course, said Skolnick of the ACRI, this is still the Jewish state and not everybody has the right to be here.

But she believes that when there are candidates who have contributed to Israel and really integrated themselves into the society the discretion allowed to the Interior Ministry should be used positively.

"It's an issue of how Israel is going to open itself to other countries. It is an important question whether every stranger will be viewed with suspicion or incorporated into the culture, so it won't be so threatened by different cultures or different skin colors," said Skolnick.

"It's an issue of how Israeli society will view itself. Is it strong enough and secure enough to be able to incorporate people from other cultures who all want to contribute to this country?"



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התאחדות התעשייתנים בישראל
מיל - המרכז הישראלי לניהול



Jaivon Kim: Some people act extra polite and others are extremely rude. (Isaac Harari)

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Olympic winn medalists to rac

World indoor

Charleroi stuns Maccabi

By ELI GRONER

Charleroi pulled off the previously unthinkable by defeating Maccabi Tel Aviv in Belgium last night, 90-82.

The loss, coupled with victories by Greece's Olympiakos and Alba Berlin, left Maccabi in fourth place in the Group E standings with only one game remaining in the European League's second stage.

While Israeli fans were disappointed by the result, any pure basketball fan had to be delighted by the outcome.

Inferior to a man, Charleroi outplayed Maccabi as a team. The Belgians played a solid game,

with the right blend of passes and shots. Maccabi meanwhile, gave a disgraceful performance, with no-existent defense, no offensive plan, or presence of mind.

Charleroi took the lead for good early in the first half. Down 12-11, Eric Claymans followed two consecutive Buck Johnson misses with field goals. After Johnson was whistled for travelling, Ron Ellis scored on the other end making the score 17-12.

Johnson's early mishaps were a sign of things to come. He picked up his third foul of the game at the 11:32 mark of the first half. Boris Radovich replaced Johnson, and Maccabi's three-guard lineup proved to be totally

inadequate under the boards. Maccabi was dominated in the paint, getting out rebounded all night long.

Coach Zvi Scherf's club made absolutely no adjustments. No substitutions to offset the height disadvantage, and many a defensive switch to combat the Belgian's offensive success.

Charleroi, which averaged 67 points a game before last night, were able to pile up the points by reaching high-percentage shot attempts. Maccabi played a man-to-man defense the entire game, with no success.

Perhaps the biggest single coaching blunder came with five seconds left in the half, when

Scherf inexplicably called for a time out when the Belgians had the ball. The stoppage in play gave Charleroi just enough time to design a play for the red-hot David Desy (15 first-half points, 22 overall), who nailed a jump-shot at the buzzer.

Desy was especially effective in the first half thanks in large part, to Oded Katash's (lack of) defense. The otherwise average Belgian backup blew by Katash on a number of occasions, displaying an effective crossover dribble that nobody knew existed.

The second half was more of the same. On the offensive end, Maccabi was clueless. The big men, Johnson and Randy White

were a veritable black hole. Anything that went into them, never got out. Nadav Henefeld was invisible, and Katash's defense kept him off the court, despite 20 first-half points.

The Belgians balanced offensive arsenal was paced by Ron Ellis with 28 points. Ellis and Adam Wojcik contributed 14 apiece.

Group E		
Stefanel Milan	11	4
Olympiakos	9	6
Alba Berlin	9	6
Maccabi Tel Aviv	8	7
CSKA Moscow	7	8
Charleroi	1	14
— Clinched final 16 spot		



Hard hitter

Germany's Anke Huber returns a serve to Sabine Appelmans of Belgium in their second-round match at the Paris Open yesterday. Huber won 6-3, 6-2.

What now for Maccabi?

Maccabi's loss last night was a blow that nobody expected.

A win next week is a must now, as one has to assume that CSKA will defeat Charleroi. Nonetheless, a Maccabi victory next week guarantees it a spot in the final 16. If Berlin defeats Stefanel Milan next week, a Maccabi victory will ensure a third or fourth place finish, depending on whether or not Maccabi wins by more or less than eight points.

A Berlin loss, coupled with a Maccabi victory would leave the teams in a three-way tie, where head-to-head matchups would determine the final placings. If Maccabi loses next week, another Charleroi sensation would be needed, this time over CSKA, to send Maccabi into the next round.

Group E will play against Group H in the best-of-three round. The second place finisher will, in all likelihood play Barcelona, with the third seed playing Partizan Belgrade. The fourth place team will have the unenviable task of meeting Turkey's Efes Pilsen.

Eli Groner

Rosen snapping at Smashnova's heels

By HEATHER CHAIT

Aimee Smashnova, the queen of Israeli tennis, is beginning to feel the heat as 19-year-old Hila Rosen begins to close in on her in the world rankings.

Rosen, making a return after suffering a wrist injury, broke into the top 200 women's rankings this week after a stunning victory in Slovenia.

Haifaite Rosen beat the top seed, Cristina Torrens-Valero from Spain, ranked at No. 81 in the first round of a \$25,000 tournament in Rojaska.

After three hours, Rosen won 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, a result that will ensure her entry into the world's top 200 women players.

Smashnova, who peaked in February 1995 at number 42 in the

world, has been steadily sliding, but still heads all Israelis at 183.

Meanwhile, in the Club Hotel Elit satellite in Beersheba, the two remaining seeds Noam Behr and Australia's Andrew Ilie, meet in today's semi-final.

Yesterday, fourth seed Behr beat Lior Dahan 6-1, 6-4 and Ilie, seeded seventh, knocked out top seed Oren Motevassel 6-7(3/7), 6-4, 6-2.

Amir Hadad scored a 7-6(8/6), 5-7, 6-2 upset against Andres Zingman from Argentina, 200 places above Hadad in the ATP rankings.

Hadad will play France's Jean Francois Bachelot in the other semifinal after Bachelot defeated Yoni Erlich 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Matches today and tomorrow start at 10:30 am.

Betar Jerusalem looking to crush Hapoel Beersheba

By ORI LEVINS

With the National League fast becoming a one-and-a-half horse race — with only Hapoel Petah Tikva mounting a less-than-inspirational challenge to top side Betar Jerusalem — the leader will look to take advantage of this weekend's fixtures and keep well ahead of the pack.

Betar, with captain Eli Ohana back after injury, hosts third-placed Hapoel Beersheba, which has a depleted lineup through the suspension of Croatian midfielder Giovanni Rosso and defender Stav Elimelech.

Rosso was sent off in last week's match in Beersheba which the host side lost 4-1 to Maccabi Tel Aviv. Elimelech has accrued three yellow

cards and sits out one match.

Betar will be hoping that Maccabi's success in the Negev is a sign that the normally solid Beershebas are about to crack open, but the team should not be too complacent, as this is a time when the leaders themselves could falter, even if they are playing at Teddy Stadium.

Betar is unbeaten in all 17 league matches so far this season, but last Saturday's 1-1 draw with Hapoel Haifa, in a match the team almost lost, could also have done its confidence some harm, Ohana notwithstanding.

Hapoel Petah Tikva should keep up the challenge as it looks to have a relatively easy home fixture with

lowly Hapoel Beit She'an.

Elsewhere, Maccabi Tel Aviv will look for a confidence boost in its home match with Maccabi Herzliya, while Maccabi Haifa will similarly look to regain some confidence in the fixture with Ironi Rishon at Kiryat Eliezer. Both Tel Aviv and Haifa were beaten in the Toto Cup semifinals midweek.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all kickoffs tomorrow at 15:00 unless stated): Zefirion Holon v. Hapoel Tel Aviv; Hapoel Kfar Sava v. Hapoel Jerusalem; Kfar Sava today 18:00; Maccabi Haifa v. Ironi Rishon today; Kiryat Eliezer; Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Beit She'an; Petah Tikva, Netanya; Be'er Yehuda v. Hapoel Haifa; Hapoel Haifa v. Maccabi Petah Tikva; Hapoel Beersheba, Teddy Stadium; Maccabi Tel Aviv v. Maccabi Herzliya, National Stadium 18:00.

Italy hails Saint Cesare, Zola the Blessed

Italy ended years of grumbling about its soccer team and overhauled with pride yesterday after beating England 4-0 in a World Cup qualifier.

A historic breakthrough, the dawn of a bright future, a defining moment in the nation's soccer history and a triumph for the old school of Italian football and for all the sporting clichés seemed justified.

"It's a victory at Wembley," declared the *Corriere della Sera*, "and we are the winners." "We are the winners," declared the *Corriere della Sera*, "and we are the winners." "We are the winners," declared the *Corriere della Sera*, "and we are the winners."

Italy's victory over England was the first time since 1938 that the national team had won a match in England. The team was coached by Cesare Prandini, and the goal scored by Fabio Capello.

from goal with a finger raised. "Wembley is ours." The hard-fought win made Italy the first team to beat England at home in a World Cup qualifier. Most Italians assumed a place in the 1998 finals was now assured.

The 19th minute goal also erased the bitter memories of a missed penalty by Zola against Germany that dented Italy out of the European championships in England last summer.

"A victory Italian style," Cesare Prandini, 24 years after Francesco Tardito, leads an Italian team in taking Wembley by storm, said *Tuttosport*.

Italy have beaten England many times in the past but the only previous occasion they have done so in England was on November 14, 1973 when they again won 1-0 at Wembley. The team was coached by Valcareggi, and the goal scored by Fabio Capello.

Parcells cuts Lowery, Young from Jets

HEMPSTEAD, New York (AP)

Bill Parcells made his first tough decision as head coach of the New York Jets. He got rid of the best kicker in football.

"We are making some difficult decisions in assembling this team," said Parcells, who became the Jets' coach and chief football operations officer one day before he cut place-kicker Nick Lowery and safety Lonnie Young.

A 17-year veteran, Lowery, 40,

owns the NFL record for most career field goals with 383 and is second on the NFL's career scoring list with 1,711 points, trailing only Hall of Famer George Blanda.

Lowery made 17 of 24 field goals and 26 of 27 extra points in 1996, his third season with the Jets. He spent most of his career with Kansas City, but made 54 of 68 field goals while with the Jets and was 72-of-74 on extra points. His 11 100-point seasons are an NFL record.

Young, 33, was a reserve defensive back for the Jets the past two seasons. A 12-year veteran, he started for the Jets from 1991-93, played for San Diego in 1994 and rejoined New York midway through the 1995 season.

Young played in 13 games last season and made one interception. He has 17 interceptions in 151 games, including 98 starts, in a career that began with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1985.

French still determined to rule 5 nations roost

LONDON (Reuters) — Once a decade the French rugby team perform as reliably as any farmyard cockerel greeting the dawn in Dax. Thirty years ago, 20 years ago, 10 years ago... the Five Nations title has disappeared across the Channel each time and this weekend will determine if fate really is on the side of Jean-Claude Skrela's team.

Rarely before this season have any French side endured as many simultaneous injuries to key personnel, reflected by a line-up against Wales short of seven experienced internationals with more than 250 caps between them.

Emile Ntamack, Thomas Castaignede,

Alain Penaud, Fabien Galthie, Philippe Benetton, plus long-term absentee Philippe Saint-Andre and Olivier Roumat, are all missing, a gloomy list to worry any coach before a test match.

"If it continues like that, I will have to put myself in the team," smiled Skrela, overlooking the fact he won the last of his 46 caps against Wales in 1978.

Yet Skrela, a member of the French grand slam side in 1977, can still field a team with the potential to maintain their country's symmetrical record. The man he says he will miss most is Benetton, the Agen flanker who is recovering from surgery on a broken jaw.

The ultimate French test still looks likely to come at Twickenham against England on March 1, but they need only cast minds back to September to know what Wales are capable of.

Neither is an Irish win over England in Dublin, proof that the Five Nations championship is a weird and wonderful beast.

Written off after home defeats to Western Samoa and Italy, the Irish have been revitalised since the appointment of Englishman Brian Ashton as coaching advisor.

His new players duly beat Wales in Cardiff by a single point two weeks ago and now encounter an English side who, despite their

SPORTS

in brief

Ataly Harva takes top honors in Magnes Race

Ataly Harva from Agudat Gevohim won the 5,000m Frankel Race at the Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus yesterday. Harva's time was 16 minutes, 39 seconds. Idit Ganot Keren-Zvi, also from Gevohim, was the first woman home in 19:21.

In the 46th Magnes Race of 2,300m, Yuval Carmi and Shira Mengen won the 14-year-old boys and girls sections in 10:05 and 10:18 respectively. *Post Sports Staff*

AC Milan lands prized talent Kluivert

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) — Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert will move from Ajax to AC Milan next season, picking the Italian club over a swarm of others chasing one of soccer's brightest talents, Dutch news agency ANP said yesterday.

Kluivert said before training yesterday he was signing a four-year contract with the Italian side. The Dutch international's contract with Ajax expires at the end of this season and the former European champions will not receive a transfer fee for the free-scoring 20-year-old.

Spain beats Malta 4-0 in World Cup qualifier

ALICANTE, Spain (Reuters) — Two goals by striker Alfonso Perez led Spain to a comfortable 4-0 World Cup qualifying win over Malta on Wednesday but manager Javier Clemente would probably have wanted an even bigger victory margin after they missed many scoring chances.

It put Spain four points clear at the top of European group six but nearest challengers Yugoslavia, who Spain play away in their next match, have a game in hand.

They could also be challenged by Slovakia who, although seven points adrift in third place, have two matches in hand.

Agassi struggles but wins on return in San Jose

SAN JOSE, Calif. (Reuters) — In his first match on the tour since being booted out of the ATP Championships in November, Andre Agassi had to struggle mightily on Wednesday to get past Bahamian Davis Cupper Mark Knowles 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 in the first round of the \$303,000 Sybase Open.

"I expected to be more rusty than I was," the third-seeded Agassi said. "I don't expect my game to come back quickly, it's just nice to be playing again. At this stage, I'm just looking to improve match by match. I'm in it for the long haul." World number one Pete Sampras advanced to the quarter-finals, beating up-and-coming American Justin Gimelstob 6-2, 6-3 in a second-round match.

Wednesday's NBA results

Atlanta 106, Toronto 84; Charlotte 113, New Jersey 100; Cleveland 83, Indiana 75; Detroit 96, Orlando 87; LA Lakers 100, Minnesota 84; Vancouver 106, San Antonio 101, Phoenix 131, Boston 100.

Shanahan scores second straight hattrick

DETROIT (Reuters) — Brendan

Shanahan scored three straight goals in the second period to become the first Red Wing to post hat tricks in consecutive games in nearly 18 years as Detroit routed the San Jose Sharks 7-1 on Wednesday.

Shanahan, who scored three goals less than seven minutes apart, got his 10th career hat trick.

He added an assist on Detroit's first tally and, following Saturday's three-goal performance against Pittsburgh, became the first Red Wing since Vaclav Nedomsky in 1979 to accomplish the feat in consecutive contests.

Shanahan has nine goals and two assists in his last six games. Vladimir Konstantinov had two goals and two assists for Detroit, which improved to 19-2-1 against San Jose, including 11-0 at home.

In Pittsburgh, Niklas Andersson and rookie Jason Holland scored second-period goals and Tommy Salo made 29 saves as the New York Islanders surprised the Penguins 5-1, snapping a three-game winless streak.

In Edmonton, Rem Murray put home his own rebound with 4:58 to go in regulation to give the Oilers their seventh win in eight games, 4-3 over the slumping Boston Bruins.

In Buffalo, Vladimir Malakhov and Martin Rucinsky stayed hot with second-period goals and Jocelyn Thibault turned aside 32 shots but the Montreal Canadiens settled for a 2-2 tie with the Sabres.

Wednesday's results: New Jersey 3, Hartford 2; Buffalo 2, Montreal 2 (OT); Detroit 7, San Jose 1; Florida 5, Tampa Bay 2; NY Islanders 5, Pittsburgh 1; Phoenix 5, Dallas 0; Edmonton 4, Boston 3; Anaheim 5, Toronto 2.

Pitchers, catchers report for spring training

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Opening day of the 1997 baseball season is still nearly seven weeks away but diehard fans can take heart as three teams opened training camp for pitchers and catchers yesterday.

American League division winners the Cleveland Indians and Texas Rangers and the National League Pittsburgh Pirates began spring early. Twelve more teams, including the World Series champion New York Yankees, are set to open camp today.

One team will have a new sign outside the door. The California Angels are now the Anaheim Angels at the behest of new owners Disney.

And for the first time in two decades the Los Angeles Dodgers will open training in Vero Beach, Florida with someone other than Tommy Lasorda at the helm.

Lasorda stepped down as Dodgers manager last season for health reasons, giving way to Bill Russell, one of eight managers who was not in charge of his current team during spring training a year ago.

New bosses for 1997 named during the offseason include Jimmy Williams (Boston), Terry Collins (Anaheim), Larry Dierker (Houston), Jim Leyland (Florida), Gene Lamont (Pittsburgh) and Terry Francona (Philadelphia). Russell and Bobby Valentine of the New York Mets took over their teams during the 1996 season.

There will be another major change for American League pitchers as spring training gets underway for pitchers and catchers this week.

A.L. pitchers will be spending some time taking swings in the batting cage in preparation for the introduction of inter-league play, which begins in June. The designated hitter will not be used in National League parks, forcing many A.L. pitchers to learn how to hit the ball — or at least not look too silly trying.

Opening Day is April 1.

New world indoor mile record set

GHENT, Belgium (AP) — The month of Ramadan fasting might have cost Hicham el Guerrouj some of his strength. It didn't cost him a chance to set world records.

After running his first-ever mile on Wednesday, the Moroccan now has two world records in 10 days, and he took away the oldest indoor mark in the books, held by

Eamonn Coghlan. In Germany on Feb. 2, el Guerrouj smashed the 1,500 indoor world record.

At the Flanders Indoor meet, He finished in a time of 3 minutes, 48.45 seconds, beating the previous record by 1.33 seconds.

After his victory lap, he was wrapped in the Moroccan flag, exhaustion finally taking effect.

Cabinet's anti-strike plan raises storm

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE cabinet's secret emergency regulations to prevent strikes in the public sector, which were revealed yesterday by Yehudi Aharonov, raised a storm, as some public figures accused the government of trying to destroy labor relations here.

The Histadrut, which knew about the regulations when they were enacted in December but did not publicize them, intends to petition the High Court of Justice against them next week. The large labor unions will meet on Sunday to decide on their moves to fight the government.

Labor and Meretz MKs blasted what they called the cabinet's attempt to "break" the workers, saying the moves violate laws protecting the right to organize and strike.

The regulations, which authorize the prime minister and finance minister to order people to work in the public sector and government corporations, were signed secretly on the night of December 30, 1996. This was after the Histadrut announced a warning strike to protest a cabinet decision to slash child allowances and impose fees on doctor's visits.

Under the regulations, the right to issue work orders is no longer limited to vital services, but encompasses the entire public sector, including the rabbinical courts, health funds and local authorities.

Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz said "the cabinet has given the prime minister

and finance minister sweeping authority intended for a state of war. It means that the premier or finance minister could charge a striking worker with the extremely grave offense of violating emergency orders, and send the army into work places. This is a violation of one of the most important basic human rights in the country."

Labor MK Shlomo Ben-Ami called the cabinet's move "an insufferable scandal."

He urged the formation of a coalition of MKs from the Geshet faction in the Likud, Labor, Meretz and the Histadrut to ensure the legislation of basic workers' rights, which he stressed are no less important than other basic rights pertaining to human liberty and dignity.

Meretz MK Dedi Zucker yesterday submitted a bill to cancel the "state of emergency" that has officially prevailed since

1948, which enables the enactment of such emergency regulations against strikers.

"It is unthinkable that we should be living in an emergency situation since 1948, as though we're in the midst of the siege on Jerusalem," he said.

Meridor tried to evade commenting on the regulations yesterday, saying he was not "familiar with the exact details."

COMMENT

Gov't regularly issues emergency orders, says expert

By EVELYN GORDON

The government's promulgation of emergency orders to prevent public-sector strikes is nothing out of the ordinary, unless there is something "very unusual in their content," Prof. Abraham Diskin of Hebrew University's political science department said yesterday.

Diskin said the authority to issue such regulations stems from an order passed by the pre-Knesset Provisional Council of State, four days after the State of Israel was established. This order said that in a state of emergency, the cabinet can suspend laws passed by the Knesset in order to accomplish a defined list of goals. One of these goals is ensuring the uninterrupted supply of essential services, which means the order can be used to prevent strikes in certain industries, Diskin said.

While the government can issue such regulations only if a state of emergency has been declared, Israel has legally been in such a state ever since the First Knesset declared one in 1948, as no subsequent Knesset ever revoked this declaration, Diskin said. This means the government has been free to promulgate such regulations at will for the past 48 years.

"There has been very wide use of these powers [since 1948]," he added, noting that they have been exercised not only during wars, but in many other periods as well. "This is definitely not something new."

The government does not need Knesset approval for emergency regulations unless it wishes to keep them in force for more than three months, as the law states that all emergency regulations expire at this time if not extended by the Knesset, Diskin continued. There have been

"dozens" of cases in which the Knesset did agree to extend such regulations, he added.

With the passage of the new Basic Law: The Government, which establishes direct elections for the prime minister, a new constitutional situation was created, Diskin said. This law states that the Knesset must renew the state of emergency every year, or else it automatically expires. However, he said, this provision does not take effect for the first time until a year after the law itself takes effect - and since the law took effect only in May 1996, the Knesset must reaffirm the state of emergency for the first time only in May 1997, he said.

Finally, Diskin said, it is ridiculous to speak of the regulations being promulgated "secretly." Like all government regulations, they are published in the official gazette, *Rashumot*, for anyone to see, he said.

Tsomet: We'll bolt gov't over Jerusalem construction

By STEVE RODAN and Nim

Tsomet will leave the government coalition unless it goes ahead with plans to build Jewish homes in eastern Jerusalem, Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said yesterday.

Peled issued the threat as Netanyahu met with US President Bill Clinton in Washington.

"I see this trip as a fateful one," Peled said. "And President Clinton has to know that the government is not in his pocket. It will fall unless there is a decision to build in Jerusalem. Tsomet, myself included, and other MKs, about 20 of us, cannot be in this government."

Earlier this week, Netanyahu said that when he returns from the US the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem will decide when to start construction in the planned neighborhood of Har Homa.

But Peled said he is skeptical that Netanyahu will act without the threat of a coalition crisis.

"Without a crisis nothing will be achieved," Peled said.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, however, told a meeting of



A woman walks past a Jerusalem bulletin board yesterday plastered with signs reading 'Bibi [Netanyahu] will divide Jerusalem.'

(Brian Handler)

the Likud Secretariat yesterday that the nay-sayers should judge the government by its deeds, and not make irresponsible comments.

In a related development, Knesset Education Committee chairman Emmanuel Zissman filed a police complaint against

the Al-Quds University in eastern Jerusalem. Zissman claimed that Al-Quds advertises itself as a degree-grant-

ing institution, though it is not accredited to grant degrees by the Council for Higher Education, as is required by Israeli law.

Nessim Gaon's lawyers claim son-in-law held illegally

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS - Lawyers representing Swiss businessman Nessim Gaon, who is facing bribery charges in France, say that the detention of Gaon's son-in-law, Yoel Herzog, son of former president Chaim Herzog, violates international law.

Herzog, 47, has been held by authorities in the French town of Grasse since he presented himself to police there at the beginning of December.

Herzog and Gaon are suspected of bribing Cannes Mayor Michel Mouillot. According to French police, Gaon's group, which operates the Noga Hilton Hotel and the Casino Riviera in Cannes, transferred FFr 1.5 million (more than NIS 900,000) to Mouillot to get a license to operate the casino.

The Gaon group's lawyers claim Mouillot blackmailed the board of the Noga Hilton.

French police authorized an arrest warrant for Gaon and Herzog in December, after the Casino Riviera manager told police that Herzog, who is the chairman of the Gaon group board of directors, ordered him to transfer the money to Mouillot.

Several days later, Herzog, who has Israeli and Swiss citizenship, but resides mainly in Switzerland, presented himself to the authorities, who arrested him. Initially, police said he was detained to prevent him from contacting the other suspects. Then they said that Herzog would be held until a meeting could be arranged between him, the casino manager and Mouillot.

Sources closed to the investigation said they suspect that Herzog gave himself up to cover Gaon.

Gaon was released on Tuesday, following his first court hearing. He returned to Switzerland, saying he was confident that Herzog would soon be freed.

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